Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-038 *28 February 1989*

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Azcona Notes Pessimism Regarding Peace Accords

PA2802011689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyos said today that "there are many pessimistic people" who do not believe in the Central American peace agreements. Azcona added that General Humberto Regalado, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, is also pessimistic regarding the regional peace agreements. The five Central American presidents pledged on 13-14 February to relaunch the peace agreement signed in August 1987 in Guatemala.

Regalado said yesterday, on the eve of the fifth foreign ministers' conference under way in San Pedro Sula (Honduras), that he continues to be pessimistic, because "I do not believe Nicaragua will comply with the commitments made."

Latin American and European diplomatic sources described the Honduran officer's comments as "unfortunate and inopportune," because he made them when the EC and various countries are offering full support to the peace initiatives.

However, Azcona said he has "faith and hope" that Nicaragua will comply with its commitments, and he emphasized the Honduran Army will not disarm the Nicaraguan contras who are in eastern Honduras.

The repatriation, demobilization, or resettlement of the contras (agreed upon at the El Salvador summit) will be affected by the will of the five countries. "It is not a matter of having the Honduran Army disarm them or expel them with gunfire," the president added.

Today, Azcona inaugurated the fifth foreign ministers conference, better known as San Jose V, in which the foreign ministers of the EC, Central America, and the Contadora Group are seeking to revive the region's process of economic and political integration.

The Honduran president also described as "positive" Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's call for the guerrillas to begin negotiations in Guatemala tomorrow to achieve a cease-fire in that country.

Foreign Ministers To Discuss EC Aid, Peace

PA2602003589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2103 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Report by German Reyes]

[Text] San Pedro Sula, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government hopes that at the foreign ministers meeting known as "San Jose V," which will be held on 27 and 28 February in San Pedro Sula, the EC will agree to increase aid to Central America in order to promote regional economic development.

Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro told ACAN-EFE that the talks, which will include representatives from the EC, the Central American governments, and Latin America's Group of Eight, will be useful because there will be a discussion of financial aid for housing and production projects, among other things.

Castro explained that one should not go into figures at the meeting because that could be construed as Central American "pressure" on Europe.

Not long ago, Honduran President Jose Azcona, who is currently in Tokyo attending Emperor Hirohito's funeral, told ACAN-EFE that he hopes the EC will be willing to give $1.4 billion in aid to Central America to help the five area countries' development.

European diplomatic sources told ACAN-EFE that the political setting for the "San Jose V" meeting is "ideal" because the five Central American presidents "have already taken a positive step" in the search for solutions to regional conflicts at the 13-14 February summit held in El Salvador.

At the San Salvador summit, the Central American presidents agreed to dismantle the armed Nicaraguan opposition known as the "contras" and asked rebel groups to join the democratic process in their respective countries.

Castro added that Europe has a "positive attitude" toward Central America and that its "commitment" has been demonstrated through the aid it has given the isthmus in recent years.

During the foreign ministers meeting, Central America will present a joint proposal addressing each nation's most pressing problems and offering short-, medium-, and long-term solutions that Central American countries should use to overcome their crises.

Another topic that will be discussed during the meeting involves EC participation in the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) to increase BCIE capital by using partners outside the region.

European diplomats agreed that the Central American situation "is difficult" and that the outlook, at least for 1989, "is gloomy." However, they noted that the area governments' commitment and aid from the international community could help overcome various problems.

In 1980, Central America's interregional trade totaled $1 billion. However, it dropped to $450 million in 1986, according to figures supplied by specialized organizations. The biggest challenge Central Americans have is to increase production, to revitalize their industrial development, and to improve trade with other countries.

As for Honduras, it has had to import basic grains in recent years, whereas 2 decades ago it was regarded as "Central America's barn."

The Central American foreign ministers will also view the importance of the EC's purchase of their products in eliminating their heavy dependence on the U.S. market, which often does not give their products good prices.

The ministers meeting will provide additional support to the Central American peace efforts, which have not been as successful as the presidents have hoped they would be because of serious domestic problems—primarily in El Salvador and Nicaragua but also to a lesser degree in the rest of the region.

Azcona will inaugurate "San Jose V," which will be attended by IDB President Enrique Iglesias and delegations from the United Nations, the OAS, and 25 European and Latin America countries.

Discuss Duarte Peace Proposal

PA2702235689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Report by Ernesto Ramirez]

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 27 Feb (AFP)—Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte's peace proposal to the Salvadoran guerrillas was the center of political discussion at the inaugural meeting of the fifth conference of foreign ministers of Europe, Central America, and the Contadora Group.

"I fervently hope President Duarte's proposal is successful and serves to bring peace to El Salvador," Honduran President Jose Azcona exclaimed on inaugurating the conference called the San Jose V meeting in San Pedro Sula today.

Azcona, who said he had talked with Duarte by telephone the previous evening, outlined the main points of the Duarte proposal for the group gathered in a movie theater in San Pedro Sula in northern Honduras.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez, president of the EEC Council of Ministers, made an addendum to his prepared speech in order to mention the subject.

Ordonez described as "truly encouraging" Duarte's invitation to the FMLN to participate in a dialogue and his willingness to postpone the presidential elections and even hold a plebiscite.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal of Costa Rica, whose government is the main architect of the Esquipulas II peace agreements, commented on the proposal in similar terms.

At the meeting of ministers, which will conclude tomorrow, the foreign ministers are analyzing two draft declarations—one economic and the other political—which emphasize the EEC's support for the process of dialogue, negotiation, and respect for international law and human rights in Central America.

In this regard, the EEC is expected to express strong support for the commitments made by the Central American presidents in El Salvador during the 2d week in February and for the creation of a Central American parliament. Similarly, according to Abel Matutes of Spain, the EEC's commissioner for Latin America, the EEC pledges to continue increasing its economic aid to the region as long as there is strict compliance with the agreements on democratization.

The draft resolutions are also expected to declare EEC support for the promotion of Central American exports and for strengthening the region's integration process.

For its part, the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) expressed open support for a rapprochement between Europe and Central America through dialogue and support for peace efforts and international cooperation with the region .

Meanwhile, the five Central American foreign ministers announced an informal meeting to discuss topics related to Esquipulas II. Madrigal Nieto said conclusions of this meeting are to be incorporated into the political communique issued by the summit.

The conference that is under way here has generated great optimism in local political circles because of the possibility of increased trade between Central America and Europe. The Central American countries are requesting an economic contribution of $200 million to reactivate the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE) and some $115 million more to stimulate trade among the isthmian nations.

The fifth conference is being carried out amid strict security measures, because of the wave of violence that shook the country during the past week.

Group of Eight Meeting Announced for 10-11 Mar

PY2302025089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the countries that make up the Group of Eight will meet on 10 and 11 March in Caracas, Venezuela, to analyze the foreign debt problem of each of the seven countries of the group. Panama's membership in the group has been suspended until that country normalizes its internal situation. The Argentine Foreign Ministry has reported that on 14 March, the Latin American relations under secretary, Alberto Ferrari Echeverry, will travel to La Paz to attend a meeting of the Argentine-Bolivian development group.

Cuba

President Attends Award Ceremony for Doctor

FL2302124989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] President Fidel Castro attended the ceremony last night during which the French Government decorated Prof Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras. The eminent Cuban doctor received the Palmas Academicas Order from the hands of French Ambassador Jean Louis Marfaing. The diplomat expressed his satisfaction in presenting the insignia on the same day in which the Cuban-French Medical Association marks its 22d anniversary.

Alvarez Cambras, who is president of the association, said: This new recognition requires me to strictly fulfill my obligations to help make Cuba a world medical power for the benefit of our people and humanity.

When asked about the significance of the event, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said the following to our reporter, Gisela Arandia:

[Begin recording] [Castro] I think that this is a [word indistinct] event and I liked the ceremony very much. I liked the ambassador's speech very much. It was very nice, very expressive. I also liked Alvarez Cambras' speech. It pleased me very much because it is a sign that we are advancing little by little in the medical field. That is why [words indistinct]. Don't you feel the same way?

[Arandia] Of course.

[Castro] What station are we doing this for? [laughter]

[Arandia] We are doing this interview for Radio Progreso. [laughter]

[Castro] Oh, it's for Radio Progreso. It has to be for Radio Progreso [laughter] because it couldn't be for Radio Retrocession. [play on Spanish word "retroceso"]. That's good. Did you like the ceremony? [end recording]

Castro Inaugurates 'Ibero-American Center'

FL2702130989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has inaugurated the Ibero-American Center for Transplant and Regeneration of the Nervous System which is located in the western part of the capital.

[Begin Castro recording] This center also has a special feature; we have joined together the areas of research, diagnosis, and surgery in a single center. I am not a specialist in this field. However, I have been told that one problem we have in the world today is that these areas—research, diagnosis, and surgery—are separate. The basic concept of this center is that all these areas are joined. Therefore, there is not a separation, conflict, or contradiction that sometimes exists. I think that after research is carried out, with strict care, we should put it into practice in diagnosis and even in surgery, when surgery is the necessary solution. [end recording]

The commander in chief pointed out that this area of the city is already considered an important zone of scientific development because of the centers it has. He also referred to a future expansion of this facility. In addition, he acknowledged the dedicated work of our researchers.

Venezuela's Perez Receives Vice Minister Viera

FL2702145989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has received in Caracas Jose Raul Viera, Cuban first vice minister of foreign relations, with whom he analyzed the progress of bilateral relations.

Afterward, the Cuban minister said to the press that our country is taking steps to reopen the Cuban Embassy in Caracas. Viera noted that Omar Morales, the new Cuban charge d'affaires, has been in that capital for 2 weeks. During that time, meetings and discussions on the organization of bilateral relations have increased—which is the purpose of our visit to Venezuela, Viera added.

UNHR Findings on September's Visit Released

FL2502042889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pirez, special correspondent to the sessions of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva]

[Text] This Friday, the secretariat of the UN Human Rights [UNHR] Commission distributed the English version of the report written by the mission that visited Cuba last September at the invitation of the Cuban Government.

The Spanish version of this document is expected to be ready by Monday. It is a 55-page document that does not have recommendations or conclusions, and that will be analyzed on Tuesday, 28 February, during a plenary session. The report consists of five chapters that refer to the leadership, establishment, and activities of the group. The document also refers to the legal and constitutional aspects of human rights in Cuba—civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. In addition, it formulates three final considerations. The annexes to the document consist of summaries of the interviews done by the group—headed by Senegalese Ambassador Alioune Sene, chairman of the previous period of sessions—with several government officials, artists, and intellectuals. It also includes summaries of the visits to schools, hospitals, agricultural cooperatives, and penitentiaries in the Cuban capital and in Pinar del Rio Province.

The annexes also contain the opinions of persons who do not sympathize with the Cuban Revolution. These persons presented accusations, without any basis or proof, of supposed violation of human rights in Cuba, which confirms the absolute freedom in which the group worked and shows how the Cuban Government facilitated the work of the group, which, as a matter of fact, is clearly noted in the report.

Further on Human Rights Report

FL2702163389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1240 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Telephone report from "Hot Off the Press" section of "Morning Magazine" by Orlando Contreras from the Palace of Nations in Geneva—live]

[Text] The president of the UN Human Rights Commission, Marc Bossuyt, informed the delegates that the debate on subject No 9 needs to be ended today. In other words, this is the debate on the report of the subcommission for the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

Regarding this, defendants of human rights have spoken before the plenum—defendants of [American] Indians who have denounced the extermination campaign aginst that ethnic minority in the United States. Furthermore, the Indians are prevented from living their lives in accordance with their culture and traditions.

On another subject, tomorrow, the report of the commission that visited Cuba last September at the invitation of our government, will be discussed. As you know, last week, the former Batista policeman, Armando Valladares said, based on the English version of the mission's report—which we received this morning in Spanish—that the report advised the mandate be continued in order to open some kind of investigation on the supposed violation of human rights in Cuba. Valladares even proposed... [rephrases] said that his country, the United States, was going to propose a draft resolution condemning Cuba, repeating practically the same case as last year.

I must say that the Spanish version of the report I have here does not contain recommendations or conclusions. The final statements indicate that the group assigned to carry out the mission—based on decision 88-106 of the UN Human Rights Commission—expressly thanks the Government and the people of Cuba for their cooperation in the fulfillment of the mission, and for facilities made available to them to organize their activities in Cuba.

That is all the report says. Everything else, and everything that the former Batista policeman, Armando Valladares, added to the report is completely false. It is neither in the English nor Spanish version of text.

Sixth Plenum of Communist Party Meets in Havana

FL2302184889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The main topics discussed at the Sixth Plenum of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana were the economic plan; the program to declare the province ready for defense, the second phase; and the measures to increase the number of trips made by urban buses.

Attempts were made to reach the highest level of efficiency in the fabrics sector to compensate for the lack of raw materials and spare parts, as well as to decrease production costs. In 1988, deficiencies were a decisive factor in reaching the established goals, and this is the reason why it was decided to continue this strategy.

As for urban bus service, there are still serious problems in the Arroyo, Guanabacoa, and San Miguel Municipalities. In the latter municipality, 50 Giron Six buses will be assigned to function as route taxis [taxis ruteros]. At the plenum, it was also stated that in the first semester of the year, 150 articulated buses of Yugoslav Manufacturing would arrive in the country. Also, a shipment of vehicles donated by the mayor of Milan is expected to arrive.

General Raul Castro Visits Matanzas Province

FL2502123089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has just ended a 2-day visit to Matanzas Province. Castro met there with the high command of the Central Army and visited military units, Mario Munoz Hospital, and Cienaga de Zapata Municipality.

Visits Cienfuegos Province

FL2702142589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Central Committee and Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has paid a work visit to Cienfuegos Province. Among the areas that Raul visited are the construction sites for the Juragua electronuclear plant, a new training center, and a large naval unit.

At the electronuclear plant, the visitors were extensively briefed on the structure, production process, and the security measures of the installation.

The new training center is called 13th Festival and was built by members of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] and other workers of the electronuclear plant.

The FAR minister congratulated the leadership, command units, and personnel of the naval base for their continuous progress in the maintenance of its high combat readiness

and in the training of its forces. Also termed as very interesting was the tour of a surface unit where they assessed its high combat and naval capabilities.

Vilma Espin Notes Family's Role in Socialism

FL2502124089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo and president of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], last night made a special speech at the 11th Radio Festival which is being held in Santa Clara, Villa Clara.

The women's leader said that it is important to study the family's role in the construction of socialism as portrayed on television and radio programs. She insisted that this programming is not only about fighting for equality between men and women, but also to raise the value of the family, as well as the family's role in socialist society.

National Revolutionary Police Investigate Crimes

Guanabacoa Man 'Captured'

FL2202163089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR—via telephone]

[Text] Specialists from the 13th municipal PNR unit in Regla Municipality, Havana City Province, have identified and captured Guanabacoa resident Alexis "Pupo" Verdecia for armed robbery.

Verdecia committed his crime in a house located on Jose Miguel Gomez Street, No 8, Regla, where he took clothing items and appliances. After being detained and taken to the police department, the accused confessed to this crime, as well as to others perpetrated in different municipalities throughout the capital. This led to the recovery of three video cassettes, four fans, and a recorder which were all returned to their owners.

The PNR adds in its report that Verdecia will be subject to provisional imprisonment until the investigation is completed and he is placed at the disposition of the tribunal responsible for the hearing of this case, and he will be subject to the appropriate sanction for a person who has a criminal record.

Centro Habana Man Arrested

FL2302151389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR—via telephone]

[Text] Specialists from the second municipal PNR Unit of Centro Habana have detained Carlos Morejon Mendez, resident of Laguna No 321. He is accused of robbery with the use of violence.

Morejon Mendez stole a woman's money and her watch as she walked down Malecon Street between Velazco and Gervasio. She reported the criminal action to the police.

The PNR based their investigation on the physical characteristics of Morejon Mendez. They drew a sketch of the accused and were thus able to identify and capture him in less than 24 hours.

Morejon Mendez was taken to the police department where he confessed his guilt to the crime and where he was easily identified by the victim.

The PNR adds in its report that Morejon Mendez will be detained until the investigation is completed. He will then be presented to the tribunal which will judge and sanction him for this transgression of the law, taking his criminal history into consideration.

Economic Crimes 'Uncovered'

FL2302171089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] An operation carried out by the PNR [National Revolutionary Police] in Ciego de Avila against economic crimes, uncovered the masterminds of a food theft in Unit 804 of the provincial wholesale enterprise of that sector.

(Lee Suart Miranda), 42 years old, and (Miguel Peyez Almanza), 44 years old, took advantage of their positions as brigade chief and unit inspector, respectively, to falsify records and legalize the transporting of the merchandise.

During the investigation, the PNR found and confiscated over 60 quintals of rice and 12 quintals of beans valued at over 1,000 pesos. The merchandise was found in the homes of Miguel Cabrera Mendoza and Candido Martinez Martinez, both of Ciego de Avila Municipality.

The provincial unit which fights against economic crimes continues its investigations to determine if anyone else was involved in this crime so that they can be placed at the disposal of the tribunals.

Men Arrested for Taking Cement

FL2402155289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR]

[Text] Diones Ramirez Espet, resident of Calzada de Managua, kilometer 17.5, Finca La Lola in Las Guasimas, Arroyo Naranjo Municipality in Havana City Province; and Ariel de los Santos Barrera Cause, resident of U Building, No 175, Jose Marti District in Santiago de Cuba; both of whom worked for construction enterprise No 25, were captured after a strict and efficient investigation was conducted by members of the Ninth Municipal PNR Unit in Arroyo Naranjo.

They were arrested for taking 156 sacks of cement from the cement block factory under construction in Las Guasimas, Havana City Province. The two men sold the cement they stole to area residents for 5 pesos a sack. They made the residents believe that the cement belonged to the people's government and that its sale was completely authorized.

After begin detained, the two men who committed the crime told authorities who bought the sacks of cement. Authorities were able to retrieve more than 150 sacks of cement which were returned to the enterprise.

The PNR has added that the accused are now being detained [bajo medida cautelar] until the investigation is completed and they are placed at the disposition of the judicial body which will judge and sanction them for this transgression against the existing legal norms.

3 Arrested for Fraud Scheme

FL2702132289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR]

[Text] Specialists from the provincial unit against economic crimes of the Las Tunas PNR and officials of the Manati Municipality industrial products enterprise have discovered a swindle that exceeded 5,000 pesos. The victims of the swindle were 200 housewives living in Las Tunas. (Ernesto F. Layba) of Manati Municipality in Las Tunas along with Luis B. Aguilera Aguilera and (Bernardo Rad Chacon), both from Havana City Province, were detained for this crime.

Investigations indicate that the three men all agreed to swindle people by selling them pressure cookers for 70 pesos when in reality they should have been sold for 35 pesos a piece. This fraudulent activity was detected by personnel of the Manati Industrial Products Enterprise and it was reported to authorities after documents were obtained from a trade transfer conducted by (Layba), who is administrator of a sales kiosk at a trade fair in Las Tunas where he represented a Manati store. The invoices from the state enterprise, which exceeded several thousands of pesos, proved that those who purchased this kitchen item were deceived.

The PNR has reported that the accused are now subject to provisional imprisonment until they are placed at the disposition of the tribunal which will judge and sanction them for the crime of fraud as stated in the penal code in force.

Barbados

Deadline Extended in Drug Smuggling Case

FL2702163689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 26, CANA—A Barbados government-appointed board of inquiry into a cocaine smuggling case involving the country's diplomatic bag in Venezuela has extended the deadline for collecting evidence, the Prime Minister's office has announced. The commission, which was to have reported its findings to Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford by February 28, has extended its deadline for members of the public who have information related to the incident to submit evidence by March 15. The announcement was made this weekend.

The three-man board of inquiry was appointed in January by Sandiford to probe a November incident when the diplomatic pouch at the Barbados Embassy in Caracas was used to smuggle about 4 pounds of cocaine onto the island. A Barbadian driver/clerk hired in Venezuela, Rufus Trotman, was dismissed after he admitted putting a parcel, which it turned out contained the illicit drug, into the pouch. Trotman denied knowledge of the presence of cocaine in the parcel, saying as far as he knew, it contained promotional material for his son's video shop here.

His son Marcus Trotman, 27, was arrested on drug and arms charges after the police carried out a search of his home.

Sandiford appointed former head of the civil service, Algernon Symmonds, chairman of the commission which also included former permanent secretary in the Legal Affairs Ministry, Samuel Corbin and retired deputy police commissioner, Clovis Boyce.

There has been several opposition calls here for the government to dismiss Foreign Minister Sir James Tudor over what has come to be known as the "diplomatic dope" scandal.

Dominican Republic

President Presents 'Memoirs' to National Assembly

FL2702190089 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1634 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] President Dr Joaquin Balaguer has reproached members of the government for what he called their lack of interest in reading the documents they receive. While presenting the National Assembly with the memoirs of the activities conducted by the government last year, President Balaguer said that he was confident that these documents will acquire their true value for the next generations. [passage omitted]

President Balaguer began his report to the nation's legislative bodies by summarizing the activities of the Interior and Police Secretariat.

[Balaguer] "Public order, an essential situation for the Interior Secretariat, was maintained during 1988 without any important alterations." [passage omitted]

The Dominican leader also referred to the role of the Armed Forces. During the past few years, he said, nothing has separated the Armed Forces from its true responsibility.

[Balaguer] "In reference to the normal activities of the Armed Forces Secretariat, special mention should be made of the following:

"First of all, the strict application of the organic law of the military, especially in reference to military promotions.

"Secondly, the absence of [word indistinct], motivated by political reasons, [words indistinct] military career because it is the only one that can provide peace and security. It (?is free) of all political intrigue and of all arbitrary dispositions.

"Thirdly, the eradication of the practice of excessive [words indistinct] of material related to active personnel as a pretext for illicit activities.

"Last of all, professionalism comprises the norms that regulate the military career and not depoliticalization which is made to look like a carbon copy of the same [passage indistinct]."

Discusses Education Situation

FL2702192489 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1701 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] In presenting his memoirs to the National Assembly, Dr Joaquin Balaguer devoted more than 10 minutes of remarks to the situation of Dominican education. He accused educators of being part of the (?problem). Dr Balaguer says that the country is lacking personnel with sufficient strength to educate and inform Dominican youths. Balaguer said:

[Begin recording] The problem that we had in 1979 is the same one that we have now: the lack of teachers and professors who are dedicated to the vocation of teaching, who have the educational training necessary to teach in the classroom, as well as a national awareness that is sufficiently alert and solid. [end recording]

President Balaguer compared teachers from the past to the current teachers. [passage indistinct]

Balaguer Announces Plans for 3d Power Plant

FL2702154589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1221 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has said that the government is attempting to install another (Itado) power plant, which would be the nation's third plant. The president said great efforts are being made to permanently resolve the energy problem. Balaguer said that a modern plant has been shipped from Japan and it will be installed in San Pedro de Macoris. It will arrive in the Dominican Republic next week, he said.

Balaguer also announced that the government has signed a 4-month agreement with a foreign company to install the plants needed to successfully confront the energy deficit.

For the first time in 2 years, technicians of the CDE [Dominican Electricity Corporation] have reported that the enterprise is operating with a surplus in the production of energy and because of this, it was not necessary [as heard] to apply the blackout schedule that was planned.

President Balaguer gave his assurances that the energy crisis will improve during the next few days and he reiterated that the installation of another plant [words indistinct]. He stressed that the government will try to permanently resolve the energy problem.

PRD Ratifies Pena Gomez-Majluta Agreements

FL2402194689 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1203 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Hatuey Decamps [secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD] stressed the results of the PRD Executive Committee meeting which last night ratified the agreements reached between Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez [president of the PRD] and Lic Jacobo Majluta [head of Majluta faction of the PRD].

[Decamps] "The initiative of Comrade Dario de Jesus [not further identified], which had the support of Comrade [name indistinct], led to a suggestion to incorporate the following into the protocol, which will more or less modify or enrich the precandidates' agreement which was approved by the national executive committee. It says:

"The precandidates who do not win will support, without reservation, the precandidate that is the winner of the PRD convention and under no circumstances will they present themselves as candidates for any other party, group of parties, or an independent movement.

"This was approved as a more enriching, more extensive explanation of the process by stating that the loser cannot become someone else's candidate. This was approved by the national PRD Executive Committee."

At the conclusion of last night's PRD meeting, Dr Pena Gomez flatly refused to make a statement to journalists. He even seemed a little annoyed. However, PRD Secretary General Decamps took it upon himself to name the followers of Pena Gomez who comprise part of the commission responsible for the PRD convention.

They are, said Decamps: "Dr Tirso Mejia Ricart, Felix Alburquerque, Rafael Montilla, and Jose Del Carmen Marcan. Those who will be representing Lic Majulta will be [name indistinct], [first name indistinct] Lorenzo, and Prof [first name indistinct] Batista. They will comprise part of the nine-member commission which will organize the convention. As you can see, one more person is needed." [sentence as heard]

Communist Leader Denies Growth of PCD
FL2702140889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1203 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] (Braudio Torres), secretary general of the Unified Communist Party has said that the remarks made by leftist leader Narciso Isa Conde [secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party, PCD], indicating that the PCD has grown quantitatively, contradicts the opinions expressed by several PCD representatives. (Torres) said that Isa Conde's statements contradict remarks made by (Fausinto Collar), [name indistinct], and [first name indistinct] Jimenez, who said that the communist group is at a standstill. (Torres) said: Only a person who is sick in the head can say that a group like the PCD, which has lost its principal leaders, is growing.

The secretary general of the Unified Communist Party has said that the truth is that the PCD is bankrupt and to say anything else is a lack of respect to the members of the group and the Dominican people.

*** Political Environment Said 'Heating Up'**
32480074a Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 8

[Text] The political environment is heating up. As the 1990 elections (slightly over a year away) approach, political quarrels are becoming exacerbated, but the chips leading to political deals and alliances are also beginning to move.

The Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) has already chosen its candidate for the presidency, and there was no surprise in that selection. Juan Bosch is the indisputable, as well as ideological leader of that political party, typified by its ironclad internal discipline.

In the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) a reconciliation appears to be nearing between the factions headed by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez and Jacobo Majluta. The latter has not sat by idly waiting for the announced settlement, and on Sunday started his campaign for the presidency with the founding of an extra-party organ that has been given the name Democratic Convergence Front (FCD). This would appear to indicate that Majluta will not yield his presidential aspirations, regardless of what is decided upon in PRD. Hence, PRD's unity and a campaign with that entity's forces united under a single banner will seemingly depend on a decision from Pena Gomez.

The winner of the last elections, the Christian Social Reformist Party (PRSC), is beginning to awaken from what seemed to be a political lethargy. It has called a general assembly for 26 January, announced as "organizational," but already evoking more than one controversy.

What will result from that PRSC meeting has been a mystery thus far. Nevertheless, the fact that such an important political force, whose leader is the president of the republic, Dr Joaquin Balaguer, is beginning to move its cadres has caused a stir in national political circles.

In the party itself, the forthcoming assembly has caused apprehension; whereas, outside the organization, predictions are being made regarding the intentions of Dr Balaguer, a politician whose shrewdness, sagacity, and wisdom few would doubt. The political scene is animated. And within a very short time we must expect to be embroiled in the preliminaries of one of the most important political campaigns in the nation's history.

*** PLD Candidate Bosch Critiques Budget**
32480074b Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 29 Dec 88 p 9

[Text] Yesterday, Prof Juan Bosch claimed as totally untrue that the Dominican Republic can produce 22 billion pesos in a year, as appears to be called for in the draft Budget and Public Spending Law that the Executive Branch has "recklessly" submitted to the legislative chambers.

Bosch, the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) presidential candidate, remarked that some "very distressing" events for the country could result from the implementation of that budget bill, if it were passed.

He noted that, according to the data contained in that bill, the government expects to receive 6.358 billion pesos which, in fact, is $1 billion; an amount that (in his opinion) is "too large" to represent what the country produces in a year.

He explained: "Of that 6,358,375,000 pesos, nearly 20 percent was allocated for the Presidency of the Republic; in other words, 1,258,198,000 pesos." He added that 2,106,536,000 pesos would go to the Finance Secretariat.

He Sees No Reasons

He emphasized that this accounts for over a third of the total expenditures contained in the budget.

He claimed to see no reasons that would warrant the Presidency and the Finance Secretariat consuming nearly 54 percent of the total budget.

He remarked that the personnel that the Presidency has, and the equipment that it uses, such as cars, helicopters, etc., do not justify the use of 1,258,198,000 pesos a year; which is equivalent to over 100 million per month.

He indicated that, in the case of the Finance Secretariat, that large amount exceeds 33 percent of the total budget, owing to the fact that this office is the one that is paying the foreign debt.

He Sees Debt Prioritized

He said that it has been stipulated that 578 million pesos is to be spent on payment of the foreign debt, as well as 610 million to pay the interest on that debt. He stressed: "That means 1.188 billion pesos; in other words, nearly 20 percent of the budget will be used to pay the foreign debt and its interest."

Nevertheless, Bosch underscored the fact that only 419 million has been appropriated for the Education Secretariat, and 383 million for the Public Health Secretariat.

He noted that the two secretariats most important to the country's existence will consume only 802 million pesos, while the foreign debt will consume 1.178 billion.

He declared: "You may think that these data that I am giving here relate to the government's revenue and expenditures. But the CEA [State Sugar Council] expenses and the CORDE [Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises] expenses, in other words, the expenses of the state enterprises, must be added to those."

Inorganic Money

He indicated that the budgets of those enterprises, added to the General State Budget, mean that no fewer than 22 billion pesos will be circulating in the country in 1 year, an amount that is not currently being produced during that period under any circumstances.

He noted that this, of course, will be inorganic money, which will not represent anything nor have any value.

He claimed that there is no possibility of producing 22 billion pesos in the country within a year.

He stressed that, therefore, this budget will bring about a "very sizable" increase in the cost of living.

He warned that, if the government puts 22 billion inorganic pesos into circulation, they will be worth two or three times their current value, and the prices of everything we use will also be multiplied.

Bosch spoke yesterday afternoon during a press conference at PLD's headquarters; also present were Deputy Vicente Bengoa, architect Eduardo Selman, and various other persons who were winners in a lottery for workers' housing constructed by the party with the purple symbol.

Selman, who is in charge of the construction of that housing, provided details on it and also on the manner in which it will be allocated.

* PLD Spokesman Questions Budget Revenues

32480074c Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 29 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] Yesterday, the spokesman for the Dominican Liberation Party's (PLD) bloc of deputies requested an explanation from the finance secretary of the origin of the funds appropriated in the budget bill, claiming that the bill covers only a third of the public spending for next year.

Vicente Bengoa said that Roberto Martinez Villanueva should provide the explanation because, as he noted, the portion submitted to Congress is only "a summary," not containing details on the item by item revenues of the decentralized and autonomous state institutions.

He remarked that the government's real spending next year would exceed 20 billion pesos, and not 6,358,375,696 pesos, as specified in the bill sent to the Legislative Chambers; he maintained that there is no time for considering it this year.

Bengoa spoke with reporters in the Chamber of Deputies press area.

He commented: "That is only what the central government, in other words, the Presidency of the Republic, with all the State Secretariats, the National Congress, the Judicial Branch, the Central Electoral Board, and the Chamber of Accounts, will spend."

He added: "Not included there is what INESPRE [National Institute of Price Stabilization] will spend, nor what CORDE [Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises] will spend, nor what the Central Bank will spend, nor what CEA [State Sugar Council] will spend; in other words, what the decentralized and autonomous institutions will spend."

He claimed that the summary sent by the Presidency contains a third of the public spending because, he noted, the execution of the budget exceeds 20 billion pesos. He did not explain how it had been reckoned as exactly a third.

He declared that a large portion of that amount would be managed by the Dominican Government, without any control.

He commented: "The Congress knows only about approximately 6 billion plus pesos, but obviously the execution will exceed that figure; it will be 7 billion plus pesos."

He said: "This figure, multiplied by three, means that we are talking about over 20 million pesos to be managed by the Dominican state, wherein the largest portion of that 20 billion pesos will be managed without any control."

He added that the Executive Branch should submit the budget of state expenditures and not those of the central government to the National Congress.

He observed: "It is now time for us, and particularly the legislators, to consider, for once and for all, the submission of the state's expenditures, and not those of the central government, to the National Congress, as is done in other countries."

He also claimed that there is no longer any time to take up next year's budget, and that the government should operate based on the current one. He said that the implementation of the present budget at the beginning of next year would cause difficulties for the government and would harm public employees.

He also declared that, this year, the state managed more than 2 billion pesos in a "discretionary" manner.

He said: "During 1988, the government managed the Executive Branch in a discretionary manner, as the law specifies, to meet those public requirements that it deems necessary. From a Dominican standpoint, that means managing as it pleases."

He indicated that the Budget and Public Spending Law represent the public expenditures of a country, and that approving them requires sufficient time to weigh each situation properly.

He declared: "We say that the level of public spending in the Dominican Republic is being challenged, and it is claimed that a public spending level has a very serious effect on inflation."

He added that, if the government is going to spend over 20 billion pesos, "This must be looked at, this must be analyzed. A proposal must be made on the basis of that."

He said that, owing to this situation, that party's economic commission is studying the bill submitted by the Executive Branch, in order to establish a position regarding it.

The draft Revenue Budget and Public Spending Law for 1989 was submitted on Tuesday during a special session called by President Joaquin Balaguer, through Decree No 584-88.

On the same day, the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies formed a special commission that will study the bill, so as to issue a report within a week, to facilitate its approval.

Members of the commission representing the Senate were Senator Jacinto Peynado, chairman of the Finance Commission; Senator Virgilio Castillo Pena, chairman of the Budget Commission; and Senator (engineer) Miguel Angel Jimenez Messon, all Reformists; as well as Dr Luciano Martinez Persia, from PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party]; and Laureano Guerrero Sanchez, from PLD.

Joining it on behalf of the Chamber of Deputies were Deputies Virgilio Alvarez Bonilla and Rafael Estrella Rojas, Reformists; Juan Medina and Antonio Nunez Diaz, PRD members; and Temistocles Montas, from PLD.

* Central Bank Budget Tops 3.2 Billion Pesos

32480074d Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 1 Jan 89 pp 1, 13

[Text] The Central Bank's general budget for 1989 has been programmed for a sum of 3.23 billion pesos for expenditures, mostly for paying the foreign debt, and it must now pay at an exchange rate of 6.35 pesos, instead of the 5.90 pesos previously paid.

According to reports, that amount represents an increase of nearly 85 percent over the budget for the current year of 1988, which was estimated at 1.752 billion pesos. The difference is 1.478 billion pesos.

According to reports that have been procured, the increment is due to the debt payments including principal and interest, as well as to the financing projected by the bank for its credit funds, such as FIDE [Investment Fund for Economic Development] and INFRATUR [Tourist Infrastructure Fund]; and also to the rise in the exchange rate included in those payments.

For the new year, foreign debt payments of about 841 million pesos, representing over 50 percent of the Central Bank's total outlays, are estimated.

And approximately 550 million is proposed for financing by way of FIDE and INFRATUR.

On the income side, it is estimated that the Central Bank's general budget will total 1.477 billion pesos.

For the year that has just ended, the income totaled 627 million pesos; hence, a large increase in income, totaling 850 million pesos, is estimated.

For the year now ended, a financial deficit of 1.124 billion pesos is estimated for the Central Bank; for the year now beginning, it is estimated that this deficit will increase by 628 million pesos, until it reaches 1.752 billion pesos. This pertains to the financial budget for

debt payments because, insofar as the other, that is, the bank's internal operating (administrative) budget is concerned, there is an estimate of a current surplus of about 62 million pesos; this is because current income totaling 270 million pesos and expenditures of 207 million pesos are estimated.

It is estimated that the payments in dollars for the new year to be made by the bank on the debt will amount to 315 million pesos.

Haiti

PUCH Press Conference on Government Forum

FL2702200689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] yesterday called for a national dialogue during a press conference held by the central committee to also explain what it meant by a government of national coalition. [passage omitted]

PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore says that this government of national coalition is a way of questioning the form of government in Haiti. A coalition government can be interpreted several ways, said Theodore. However, the population likes the idea of a coalition government, as a way of trying to find a solution to a political problem—which for the masses [pep la] means the nation's economic and social problems.

For the PUCH, a coalition government does not mean opening the cabinet to participation by other sectors, having other sectors come to be part of the cabinet. It means, rather, to leave behind a personal form of government in order to guarantee clear political development, political development in which the masses can participate and in which they can feel the results of their participation.

[Begin Theodore recording] We say that it means, first of all, a political and economic program, a program for social change. We also say that it means finding upright Haitians—honest, competent people whom the Haitian people can accept and who are themselves willing to have their actions monitored. It is this kind of person who should make up a government of national coalition. Should we despair? Is there no one upright and honest left in Haiti? No. There are people who are honest, upright, willing, and patriotic who are capable of effectively taking charge of this kind of a government. What is the place and the role of political parties in such a government? Well, it is to form forceful coalitions to work with the masses—the workers, the peasants, the unemployed, the women and men of Haiti—in order to see how we are going to bring about this national renaissance that everyone is asking for. Thus, it involves concrete work, practical work, and also work of mobilization, of training, of political culture, which means a concrete commitment in favor of Haiti. [end recording]

Theodore says an election will not suffice to solve the nation's problems. The system and policy of corruption [sistem politk pouriti a] must be changed. Theodore called on all political sectors to lay their ambitions and their (?pretensions) aside and take a good hard look at the nation's current situation, and to set up a program—to get together to see where their interests converge and how they can find a solution to Haiti's problems.

The PUCH thinks the government should take the forum's recommendations into account. However, even if it does not do so, the PUCH does not think that the forum was a waste of time.

Theodore castigated diverse political sectors that are not in favor of a coalition government or of PUCH's participation in the forum. He said that among those sectors were the traditional politicians who do not want change and who wish to keep the government personal. Other sectors think that only they are revolutionary. These sectors, said Theodore, are not taking into account the moment in which we are living, in which there has to be a dialogue between those who agree and those who do not. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] They are more revolutionary than anyone else. They are superrevolutionary! [passage omitted] Revolution always involves assembly—the assembling of forces around a program for progress. [passage omitted] What kind of revolutionaries are they if they exclude others from participating, the way Duvalier himself did? Duvalier was in the habit of doing away with everything and everyone not immediately in agreement with his point of view. Now, there are people who call themselves revolutionaries and who exclude all others—who refuse to talk to others, to collaborate with others, or to participate in anything, on the pretext that they possess the whole truth in the palm of their hand. Such people are of the essence of Duvalierism. They possess the same macoute essence. They are closed, and therefore essentially Duvalierist, even though they claim to be revolutionaries, and they talk revolution. [end recording]

Theodore also discussed the wheeling and dealing of the Duvalierists, the (?repressive violent criminals) who participated in several massacres, with a view to taking back power. For all these reasons, PUCH called for a spirit of responsibility in Haiti, so that the change the Haitian people want can be effected. And PUCH does not discard the possibility of talking with the Duvalierists. Politics is a relationship between forces, explained Rene Theodore and Max Bourjolly.

[Begin recording] [Theodore] Well, when they talk about a process of (?de-Nazification), or, here, of de-Duvalierization, they must begin by defining the acts of justice—and especially by making a commitment to a new program, marking a rupture from the former program. Breaking away from the former program today means abolishing a personal form of government. It means cleaning up all the corrupt people (?continuing to crop

up) in the public administration. It means creating the conditions for participation by the masses in political decisions and in controlling the administration and the programs being carried out with a view to economic and social development.

[Bourjolly] I would like to add something. Politics doesn't mean enemies, or crushing, hating, pulling a knife and holding it to someone's throat, and so forth. [passage omitted] For example, the Sandinists, after some 14 years of revolution, are obliged to sit down with the Somozists, right? [passage omitted] There is a relationship between forces here in Haiti, too. [passage omitted] So you go down to whatever level it is in order to try to understand it, and then you seek a solution. And it is in that sense that we say that politics the way they are trying to do it—(?based on) hatred, on people refusing to sit down and talk to other people—is not the way to educate a population. That is not the way to achieve progress. [end recording]

On the matter of the democratic bloc, PUCH's position is that they must accept political discussion without shunting any particular type of politician aside.

Journalists React to Forum

FL2702182089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The forum on the electoral institution ended in a compromise between several sectors present. This is, essentially, what two journalists who covered the forum told us. Morisson Charles and Jacques Price spoke of a de facto compromise between the Duvalierist sector said to be moderate—the sector said it wished to rid itself of the Duvalierist label that it bears—and the democratic sector. [passage omitted] In this interview by Yves-Marie Chanel, we will listen to the beginning of an analysis and some reflections on the Duvalierist sector. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Price] [Passage omitted] We journalists who were present, believe that this compromise took place in order to allow certain ideas to be heard, by what we might call a radical sector—represented by, on the one hand, the Haitian Communist Party, which was present, and also by a number of other parties and organizations that have leaders who are not really representatives. So we journalists think that this sector, which we could call the moderate Duvalierist sector, and the democratic sector united at the forum so they could push the recommendations through, because I think they [not further identified] really needed that voice, so that they could indeed get out the idea that they wanted to get out at the forum—an idea which is, after all, based on the Constitution of March 1987. [passage omitted]

[Chanel] [Passage omitted] Do you think that this idea—to the effect that there is no democracy without the Duvalierists, without the participation of everyone—did indeed get through at the forum? And do you think it has any future? Do you think it can be applied?

[Price] Well, we can't say (?yet). However, we do know that a majority of society rejects Duvalierism. We have seen what results Duvalierism has produced over the past 30 years. Zero, nothing, any way you look at it! So I don't think that we can speak of a future for Duvalierism.

However, it was a way for that particular Duvalierist sector that was present at the forum to resurface. We journalists think it was a way for that sector to get itself talked about and accepted at a certain level in the society and in Haitian political life. [passage omitted]

And like Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] leader Serges Gilles said, he thinks that the men with whom they sat down were not those who committed massacres. They refused to sit down at that forum with those who committed massacres—with the Duvalierist sector accused of several criminal acts that have occurred in Haiti, with the Duvalierist hard-liners.

We know that they (?also said they wouldn't sit down with) those responsible for the 29 November massacre. They did not want to have to sit down with those people, and those people were not at the forum.

Also, for its part, the government (?made itself felt, by), according to much of what was said at the forum, not inviting such people to the forum. So I think that there was a position taken by both the democratic sector, which refused to sit down with those they said were responsible for the massacres, and the government, which once again did not wave these people in the population's face, in the society's face.

[Chanel] [Passage omitted] Are you sure it isn't a compromise that the government made with the Duvalierists too? To present them to the public with another face? Is there really such a thing as moderate Duvalierists and hard-line Duvalierists? Don't the moderate Duvalierists also represent the ideas of the hard-liners? Morisson?

[Charles] [Passage omitted] But what I can say is that some of the Duvalierists have not directly been accused of crimes—for example, those who participated in the forum. The public hue and cry has accused them of having participated in the regime, worked for the regime—but they have never accused them of having committed crimes. I am under the impression that that was the criteria for accepting those who did participate. [passage omitted]

[Chanel] Gentlemen, we are now going to try to (?dissect) all the sectors that participated in the forum. We will begin with the Duvalierists. Was there a compromise

among the Duvalierists themselves? Did they say: We will choose so-and-so to represent our ideas? Those ideas they always talk about? That business of The Class [la klas la], the middle classes? And the color business?

I can ask Morisson this, because with the idea of piercing a myth that is always in everyone's head—we are talking about the idea that there is division among the Duvalierist sector—I believe you approached Clovis Desinor, who told you that he had sort of dropped everything? What exactly did he say? Let's start there. Morisson?

[Charles] [Passage omitted] He said that he considered himself a retiree. He said that he has remained silent for some time now. Therefore, we cannot hasten to say there is division—because we don't know what is under the table. [passage omitted]

[Chanel] Morisson, speaking of Desinor's retirement, these men had also been silent about the electoral council. It was only at the last minute that they appeared, in order to say: Here we are.

[Charles] That's right. That's the problem. [passage omitted]

[Price] I think we can't really say that there is division among the Duvalierists. Because when we look at the news that comes into our newsrooms to the effect that the Duvalierists are sitting in the Dominican Republic; when we learn that (?things are being divided up), that meetings are being held right and left, and that there is a lot of coming and going between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, I wonder if this isn't really a strategy of this political force that was in power for 30 years—in the sense that some of them are considered people who are marked. And these people might reach some kind of compromise among themselves, to put forward, to push to the foreground, someone who was in the background but who shares their ideas.

[Chanel] To push that person?

[Price] Yes, to support him. I mean, to stay in the background but to push their person. They have pawns, and they (?might push) them. [passage omitted] We journalists think that they might just do this. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Radio Soleil Analysis

FL2702175389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1630 GMT 23 Feb 89

[From the "117 Magazine" program— monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...the circumstances. Even though the most hard-line of the Duvalierists did not appear in person, their representatives were present, and their ideas got through. Since they have a political practice that is not based on a lot of talking, they were able to slip into both committees; what's more, those who at the beginning had said they were against elections ended up agreeing with them.

Already a week earlier, the Duvalierist sector was analyzing its strength, its chances, seeing what kind of weight it could wield in an election. [Words indistinct] an article written by Frantz Bataille in LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR for the week of 11-17 February speaks clearly.

Are the Duvalierists counting on Hubert de Ronceray, Edouard Francisque, or perhaps Jean-Robert Estime to come and agitate, 30 years later, the matter of color and class? In any case, that is the design that is drawn. [passage omitted]

There were also all kinds of actors at that forum. There were comedians and losers. Another surprise was that Marc Bazin never said a word. Does this mean that the game has already been played? [passage omitted]

The cabinet reshuffled a government of national unity—perhaps a prime minister, a Ministry of Cooperation, and elections under a CEP [electoral council] as per the Constitution of 1987—a good way to reassure the United States and pull into this game those who care only about elections [elektoralis yo] and who still refuse to lay down their arms.

In this mess [meli-melo], only God knows who the big loser is going to be in this connection. [passage omitted]

Reaction to Formation of Election Council

FL2702205889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [First announcer] Reaction to the decree published last week regarding the election council is still coming in. Today we have the reaction of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], of a representative of the nationalistic, progressive sector, and of MDN [Mobilization for National Development] leader Hubert de Ronceray. First the MIDH.

[Second announcer] The MIDH has expressed satisfaction, following the publication of the decree creating the Permanent Election Council [CEP]. MIDH leader Marc L. Bazin, who participated in last week's government forum, feels President Prosper Avril has, by publishing this decree, kept his promise.

[Begin Bazin recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] This is also an opportunity for me to congratulate the government on keeping its word. [passage omitted] Not only did it respect the deadline, but also, in substance, what the government published is essentially what was in the recommendations we made. We find this truly exceptional and feel that the government deserves to be congratulated for it. This is completely natural. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, I don't know if you have noticed, but now everyone is talking about dialogue and consensus [konsertasyon]—whereas back when I myself said it, some people disagreed. Of course, some people require a little time to see reality, and I am happy that they are beginning to understand more and more.

Thus, coalition? Yes. After elections? Yes, because at that time the Haitian people will have already decided who is who. If you go and form a coalition right now, you don't know who is who. You will be creating disorder and trying to prevent elections. And everyone knows that many people claim to have many supporters whereas in reality, they don't dare go to elections so that the number of their supporters can actually be counted. [end recording]

Questioned on the hard-liners among the opposition, who continue to demand the resignation of the Avril government, Bazin deems this opposition irresponsible.

Sylvain Jolibois of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector, which is in favor of seeing Prosper Avril step down, holds the opposite view. He thinks Avril's departure is a necessity for Haiti. [passage omitted]

Hubert de Ronceray's MDN, Mobilization for National Development, stresses its indignation with the newly issued decree creating the CEP, which it feels is a new expression of the intransigence, arrogance, and bad faith of the political authorities [responsables], aimed at prolonging a total crisis and a situation of absolute poverty. De Ronceray's party does not contest the idea of a Provisional Election Council, which is provided for in the Constitution of 1987. Nevertheless, the MDN leader points out certain incoherencies in the decree of last 23 February.

According to De Ronceray, the so-called considering clauses of the preamble of this decree do not have sufficient legal grounds. They ignore all laws prior to Prosper Avril's 5 months in power. He is referring to an assembly of 28 people who do not represent the entire nation [sans representativite nationale], and to the Commission for Haitians Overseas that has no organic law or precise attributions.

De Ronceray also feels that a transitional government has no authority whatsoever to legislate over the members of a permanent election council. Its competence is limited exclusively to the members of a provisional election council.

According to De Ronceray, the Constitution of 1987 has been changed through this government decree.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] Although the decree never makes reference to the Constitution of 1987, we noticed that it regroups certain articles, such as 191 and 197 of the Constitution and amends other articles, such as 193, 194.1, 196, etc. And among the main modifications made to the Constitution of 1987, we noticed, first, the supervision of electoral operations at the different Haitian consultates and other places where Haitians are represented [representations] abroad; a Justice Ministry that serves as a driving belt [courroie de transmission] between the executive and the Permanent Election Council; the freedom, should any group or organization abstain from filling the vacancy with representatives of four other organizations or institutions—such as the Order of Lawyers' bar, the Haitian Armed Forces, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, socioprofessional organizations, etc. —which the executive reserves for itself. [end recording]

De Ronceray also sees elements in the government decree that can break the electoral, and the democratic, process.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] In our opinion, there are at least seven factors in the decree that the military government is going to be able to bring into play to draw out and postpone the elections indefinitely. There is, first of all, the absence of constitutional grounds for writing the electoral laws. Next, there are agreements to be signed with foreign governments and legal, organizational, or consular enacting terms to be set in place in the countries in question with a view to supervising the voting by Haitians abroad. The Provisional Election Council has a mandate of practically unlimited duration. Even though the decree speaks of handing authority over to a Permanent Election Council, no one knows at what precise moment this permanent election council will take over.

There is also the decree's notorious Article 18, which introduces a bit of craftiness, a maneuver, an essential blemish [vice de fond]. (?If you set aside) the contingency [eventualite] of the presidential election, the Provisional Election Council becomes a council of unlimited duration, and General Avril's government also becomes dependent on this election council, and consequently also obtains unlimited duration.

There is also the absence of sanctions against the members of the Provisional Election Council. The decree provides for sanctions against the members of the Permanent Election Council, but not for members of the provisional council—which means that the members of the provisional council will be free to do anything they please with the guarantee that no legal action will be initiated against them. [end recording]

Finally, De Ronceray declares that the national majority is demanding the restoration [rehabilitation] of the Constitution of 1987 with certain amendments in order to go in the direction of a representative government. To want to impose a different path on the nation is to render the nation ungovernable, concludes Hubert de Ronceray.

APN Militants Arrested During Demonstration

FL2702203489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by correspondent for northern Haiti, Jimmy Prophete]

[Excerpts] Two APN, People's National Assembly, militants—Jean Robert Lalanne and Miguel Vieux—were arrested at approximately 0900 this morning by the Trou du Nord police. Trou du Nord is a commune some 40 km from Cap Haitien.

Lalanne and Vieux were heading for Trou du Nord to support the demonstration organized by the APL, People's Local Assembly, [Asamblee Populaire Locale] and [words indistinct] to demand that the Vincent Bridge be repaired, that a local communal committee approved by the masses be appointed, that the section chiefs who are oppressing the peasants be neutralized, and so forth.

The demonstration was just getting underway when it was dispersed by the Army. It was then that the two APN militants were apprehended and handed over to the local police. They were released 30 minutes later. We interviewed Jean Robert Lalanne, who gave us the following account.

[Begin Lalanne recording, in Creole] And when we showed up this morning after the demonstration had started, we had run across the commanding officer. I know he saw us. He looked very cross. [passage omitted] There was to be an assembly after the demonstration. As we were parking the car to get out of the car, the military started (?shooting) off tear gas. Then they fired bullets. Indeed, they did not shoot at people. They fired into the air. [passage omitted] There were some rocks thrown then, but this was a reaction from the masses because the military began shooting—for there were some 1,000-1,500 demonstrators.

As for us, there was to be an assembly after the demonstration, and the local assembly leaders from Trou du Nord made us go to the square to await the assembly [words indistinct]. Five soldiers appeared, rifles in hand, and told us that the commanding officer asked that we go to the barracks. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

We remind listeners that Lalanne and Vieux were released and were not molested by the local police.

This is Cap Haitien, Jimmy Prophete, Radio Metropole.

New AJH Executive Committee Members Announced

FL2702204289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1355 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The AJH [Haitian Journalists Association] has a new executive committee. (Dischler Marcelin) has been designated secretary general; (Exume Raymond), deputy secretary; and Jacques Price, administrative secretary.

Salinas Delivers Army, Air Force Day Speech

PA2702224489 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 3

[Speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on occasion of Mexican Army and Air Force Day at General Alvaro Obregon Military Camp; date not given]

[Text] Mexican soldiers:

The nation proudly celebrates today, the day of the Mexican Army. The entire country and all the segments of society congratulate each other for having an army that has always excelled in its loyalty, spirit of sacrifice, willingness to serve the country, and love of Mexico.

We have modernized Mexico in peace, and we are certain that respect for our rights and ability to reach agreements regulate our coexistence. We feel that way because we know our home is safe since it is protected by the Mexican People's Army.

Our country lives in freedom; daily labor and efforts continue building the foundations of greater prosperity and justice. Our reality, which is unusual in other countries, is for us Mexicans, the fruit of the strength of our institutions and the firmness of the nationalism of all the groups that compose our society.

Throughout its history, the Mexican Army has shared difficult periods of changes and challenges with the rest of the Mexican people. Its passion for Mexico stems from the sovereign yearning of the insurgent troops, the unyielding fighting spirit of the forces of the reform, and the spirit of transformation that revolutionary armies share. The Army's origins with the people link it inseparably to the people. Its institutional behavior enhances its reputation before history and society.

The Mexican Army, which is in charge of national security and our territorial integrity, efficiently fulfills other extremely important tasks in our country: the merciless struggle against drug trafficking, protection of society's strategic installations, and generous support for Mexicans who are facing disasters. The Mexican people are aware of this; therefore, their affection for those who protect them and defend them is deeply rooted.

Our Armed Forces are respected internationally. The Mexican soldier is always ready to defend his homeland. Because of their ideals as members of a popular and libertarian institution, Mexican soldiers guarantee the validity of the Constitution, the exercise of all freedoms, and the full development of our democratic institutions.

Mexican soldiers, I am addressing you at a time when the country faces its problems within an atmosphere of freedom, job opportunity, and trust in the future. The country is moving forward. All fronts are working for the country's modernization. The goal is to fully enter a new phase of development, greater prosperity, and justice for the people. History and the Mexican people demand that; let us fulfill that demand.

We have chosen consensus as the path to follow to fulfill those demands. In the political field, always respecting political pluralism, we encourage fruitful debates, because they are a suitable means to improve our democracy. Economically speaking, we consult the various sectors to determine the feasible strategies to use in our development plan. As for culture and science, Mexican society participates in the search for new and better plans to work. Agreement is the instrument to attain our goal, which is to improve most Mexicans' standard of living.

We are struggling for Mexico's future. We know that struggle has many fronts. Beyond our borders, we have taken actions that cannot be delayed to alleviate the burden of the foreign debt. We do so always respecting our right to self-determination and our sovereignty. I say that vigorously before you, defenders of our nation's essential principles.

We will introduce deep changes to the rural productive system. The challenge in that sector is to introduce more efficiency and justice. As for politics, we will struggle to give opportunities for expression to various opinions and expand the opportunities to participate in the country's political life, because Mexicans demand and deserve a better and fuller democratic life. In the social field, we must end the deprivation and discouragement that many of our compatriots are experiencing. Let us fight and eradicate extreme poverty, because it cannot be tolerated by, and does not fit the goals of the revolution, and because Mexico must eliminate unacceptable contrasts to be a truly modern country.

Mexico is facing challenges that call for the joint efforts of all sectors. The Armed Forces' participation is basic. Their contribution to the process of modernization is essential because of the importance of the mission the country has assigned it.

From the Armed Forces' and Air Force's points of view, the process of modernization includes the implementation of adequate measures to improve the Armed Forces' operational conditions. In accordance with the available resources, we will improve the equipment and installations that need to be improved so the Armed Forces can fulfill their high responsibilities. Taking their own experience as an example, we will improve the recruitment and selection systems. We will promote the military career, because it is an example for Mexican children and youth. We will also improve the promotion and training programs, because we must give better rewards for merit.

The Army's morale is closely linked with the principles it defends: nationalism, democracy, freedom, and justice. Because of its loyalty to those principles, the Mexican soldier who risks his life in the fulfillment of his duty must have full access to a worthy life.

Only a few days ago, on 9 February—at the ceremony in which we celebrated the day of the March of Loyalty, a historical point that unites the Presidency and the Armed Forces—Mexican soldiers reasserted their commitment to the homeland's republican future.

Their message was received with emotion. The country has highly professional and ethical military men ready to march at the pace of the country's modernization, respectful of the legitimate differences that exist in every free society, and firm in their defense of the de jure state that governs us all. The military institutions are at the service of the people and the Constitution. That is their vocation and supreme mission.

I encourage our Army and Air Force troops and officers to maintain their patriotic and republican orientation and to continue proudly defending our Mexican essence. Receive the respect and personal affection of the president. Be secure that society appreciates and values to its full worth your great contribution to the homeland's tasks.

Bank of Mexico Reports on National Economy
PA2502122689 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Elvira Marcelo Esquivel]

[Excerpt] According to the National Bank of Mexico's monthly economic report, the increase in the public sector's primary surplus indicates a drop in purchases of goods and services during the last quarter of 1988 and reflects an improvement in the government's finances, a trend that must continue in 1989 since the inflation rate and the exchange market are positively affected by it.

The bank's monthly report outlines the country's economic situation, pointing out the following:

—The public sector's financial deficit represents almost 11 percent of GNP at the end of 1988. Even though this level is lower than in 1987, it is excessive when compared to the adjustment that was achieved in the primary surplus.

—The progress made regarding the primary surplus is neutralized by the fact that real interest rates remain high.

—During 1988, the inflation rate was reduced beyond expectations. Also, the exchange rate was fixed, curbs on imports were reduced, and the public sector surplus was increased.

—During the same period, the economy experienced an increase in purchasing power of close to 8 percent of GNP.

—Revenues of $5.725 billion from oil exports in 1988 represent one-third of total oil-export receipts collected in 1982. [passage omitted]

Pemex Reports Petrochemical Production Increase
PA2302164589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Summary] Pemex has announced that its production of petrochemicals rose to 16.643 billion tons in 1988. This figure exceeded Pemex' planned production for this year by a little over 1 million tons. Pemex is thereby promoting production of other more profitable products.

El Salvador

Reactions to Duarte Peace Proposal Reported

Cabinet Backs Proposal

PA2802023989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (AFP)—El Salvador's Council of Ministers, which includes Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova, today expressed support for a peace proposal presented yesterday by President Napoleon Duarte that calls for, among other things, a cease-fire that would begin at midnight tonight and an urgent dialogue with the guerrillas to achieve peace.

Presidency Minister Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila this afternoon announced that the Council of Ministers fully supports President Duarte's proposal to start a dialogue with the insurgents tomorrow in Guatemala City.

Lopez Nuila also reported that the Council of Ministers agreed to establish a commission, composed of Vice President Rodolfo Castillo, the defense minister, and First Presidential Designate Abraham Rodriguez, to "make all efforts leading to an end of the armed struggle in the country as soon as possible."

Duarte also spoke yesterday about the possibility of holding a plesbicite to allow the people to decide on a proposal by the guerrillas in late January in which they stated they would incorporate themselves into political life if the elections, which are scheduled to be held on 19 March, are postponed until 15 September.

Duarte had initially refused to discuss the insurgents' proposal, and Gen Vides Casanova had warned he would oust the president if he remained in office beyond the constitutionally mandated end of his term on 1 June.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas announced they would reveal their position on Duarte's peace proposal tonight.

Guerrilla Reaction Noted

PA2802035189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0133 GMT 28 Feb 89

[By Eduardo Kragelund]

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (REUTER)—The Salvadoran guerrillas will respond in a "constructive" manner to an offer by President Jose Napoleon Duarte to begin peace talks with the rebels, an FMLN leader said here today. "There will not be an outright rejection," Salvador Samayoa, an FMLN political representative, told REUTER.

Duarte proposed an immediate cease-fire to the rebels on Sunday as a condition for a direct dialogue that could begin tomorrow in Guatemala.

"Our reply will be on the constructive side," Samayoa added, but he said the talks should precede the cease-fire. "The problem with (Duarte's) proposal is that it begins with the objective that should come out of the Guatemala meeting," Samayoa said.

Duarte offered direct talks with the rebels to end the armed struggle, to formally incorporate the insurgents into political and civilian life, and to recognize the Armed Forces as the country's only army.

"We hope that the rebels say yes, because otherwise they will demonstrate that they do not want peace and that they only want to use talks for strategic purposes," Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo said in Honduras today. Acevedo, who is attending a meeting of Central American and European foreign ministers in San Pedro Sula, insisted that the only condition in Duarte's offer was a cease-fire by the rebels until June.

Duarte's proposal implied that the Armed Forces would establish a simultaneous cease-fire. The president also said he is prepared to postpone the scheduled 19 March elections for 6 weeks. In his address, he asked the Legislative Assembly and the political parties to cooperate in postponing the elections.

Duarte's message was a counterproposal to a broad peace initiative proposed by the rebels during a meeting with Salvadoran political leaders in Mexico last week. The FMLN asked that the elections be postponed until September to ensure the left's participation. The FMLN also proposed a cease-fire until the elections were held. Furthermore, the FMLN voiced its willingness to end the armed struggle if the government restructured the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the security corps and brought perpetrators of political crimes to justice.

Salvadoran political parties reacted favorably to Duarte's proposal but made contradicting statements on what would be the next step following the talks with the rebels.

Ricardo Alvarenga, National Assembly president and leader of the ultraright-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, told the press it was necessary to stick to the original election date. "If there is a Constitution, we must abide by it," Alvarenga said, referring to the law that sets 19 March as the election date.

The leftist coalition Democratic Convergence [CD] said at a news conference that Duarte's proposal was generally positive, but CD spokesmen questioned some aspects of the proposal.

CD leader Ruben Zamora rejected Duarte's bid to postpone the elections for 6 weeks, terming it inadequate. He said the cease-fire could not come as a condition but as a result of the talks in Guatemala.

In Sunday's speech, Duarte asked the political parties to remember the commitment they signed last week in Oaxtepec, Mexico to "make their best effort to contribute to the peace effort."

Most of the delegates that went to Oaxtepec voiced their willingness to withdraw their parties' respective candidacies—a legal way to postpone the elections past 30 April, as the guerrillas are demanding.

CD Labels Proposal 'Positive'

PA2802041889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0315 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] has described yesterday's proposal by President Duarte as positive, although the CD believes only one of the three solutions suggested is feasible.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We consider it positive that President Duarte has accepted the need to postpone the elections. Postponing them until 30 April is not acceptable to the CD, however, and we do not believe that postponement really will help bring peace to our country.

On the question of holding a plebiscite, we believe that although holding a plebiscite is positive, it is not possible to use it in this case to postpone the elections, which is the principal objective.

Finally, we consider a decree by the three branches of government postponing the elections as positive. We believe this could be the way to solve the constitutional problem. [end recording]

In reply to President Duarte's proposal, the CD also proposed that the political parties jointly withdraw their presidential candidates this Friday, which could open the way to a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

ARENA, MAC Figures Cited

PA2802044889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0320 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes—passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso has called President Duarte's proposal unconstitutional. Alvarenga added that the Assembly will not violate the Constitution merely to satisfy the FMLN's demands. The Legislative Assembly president said he was cautious over the proposal for postponing the presidential elections beyond 19 March. As his party—the Nationalist Republican Alliance—has insisted, the conditions for the election are established in the Constitution, and these cannot be changed merely to please the FMLN.

[Alvarenga] "We should first comply with the (?Constitution). The elections are about to be held. Let us hold the elections; after we have elected our next president, there is no reason why the incumbent president or the next president and vice president will be prevented from continuing the peace efforts. That way we would be complying with the Constitution. That is the action we should take. There is no reason why, to achieve peace, we should now change the Constitution. We should go ahead with this process. You will see that we are willing to respect all positions. I think we would then be on the right path to achieving the peace that the president also wants."

Alvarenga said the Legislative Assembly will have to study President Duarte's proposal before making a definite statement on it. He added, however, that the Legislative Assembly cannot send a delegation to the meeting the president is planning to hold with the FMLN in Guatemala just because Duarte has requested it.

[Alvarenga] "The Legislative Assembly will send representatives to study any document that is for the benefit of the country and of the Salvadoran people when the Assembly deems it advisable and when the people's needs are not at stake. We will not play around with demagoguery. I believe that we understand we have a Constitution we must respect. If we discuss changes of dates, this violates the Constitution."

Alvarenga's attitude is in sharp contrast with the Authentic Christian Movement [MAC], the second largest political force in the Legislative Assembly, whose leader Mauricio Mazier Andino said the elections should be postponed to an even later date than what President Duarte proposed. This way, he said, the FMLN would be given time to dismantle its military structure and join the country's political and civil life.

[Mazier] "Yes, it is important that the election date be changed so there is wider participation. We should allow the participation of the FMLN members, who would lay down their weapons to join the democratic process. As I said, this entails certain reforms and agreements in both the Legislative and Executive Branches. For example, there would have to be a general amnesty for both the criminals in the Army and the criminals in the FMLN. All of them would have to be pardoned so they could freely participate in the elections. This implies certain discussions to study ways of making these reforms, all of which cannot be done in the time specified by the Christian Democratic Party.

"From the very beginning, we insisted there are means for preventing violations of the Constitution. I repeat: If all the parties that have political resolve withdraw their candidates, then there could not be elections and the Legislative Assembly would have to appoint a provisional government. President Duarte's proposal to simply change the election date, without withdrawing the candidates, leaves room for very serious suspicions that the Executive Branch is violating the Constitution."

The very nature of President Duarte's proposal would mean the Legislative Assembly's leaders would study the proposal, which would then be discussed at a session of the entire Assembly. This presents another problem: Duarte's proposed date for holding talks with the FMLN is 28 February, and the Assembly session has been scheduled for 1 March.

Cristiani Says Proposal 'Hasty'

PA2802044289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0328 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani stated tonight that his party is studying President Duarte's proposal and has invited all the other political parties to discuss the proposal at the Legislative Assembly tomorrow. He also said the president's proposal was too hasty.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] The president's proposal was perhaps a bit hasty. The FMLN proposal was addressed to both the legislative and executive branches. I would have thought the right thing to do was for both government branches to study the proposal and perhaps issue a sole counterproposal. This does not mean the Legislative Assembly will not approve or reject Duarte's proposal. I do, however, believe we could well have coordinated a response by both branches, because the proposal was addressed to both bodies.

[Reporter] President Duarte's proposal already mentions a possible election postponement and proposes they be held in April. How does ARENA view the executive branch's proposed new date for presidential elections?

[Cristiani] The proposal to postpone elections until April was made by Christian Democratic Party representatives in Mexico. This proposal was not accepted by the other political parties present or by the FMLN. In this sense, we do not want to comment on this issue based only on President Duarte's proposal; we prefer to wait for the FMLN's response to it. The FMLN not only rejected this proposal, but the members of the rebel delegation that attended the meeting in Mexico said it was laughable. [end recording]

Commentary on Reaction to FMLN Proposal

PA1902222789 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Station commentary; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...as well as the arrest of labor leaders, such as Arevalo of the Bread, Land, Work and Freedom Movement, MPTTL, show the government and armed forces' inability to silence the clamor for social peace with justice, which our people long for.

The refusal to hold talks, as well as an increase in repression by the government and the Armed Forces, is prompting all segments of soc ety to use forceful measures to pressure the warmongering and militaristic sectors to seek solutions to the crisis that will benefit the Salvadoran masses. The occupation of churches, [word indistinct] public building, as well as strikes, stoppages and mobilizations are only a warning from the workers to the [word indistinct] of the yankee embassy of their determination to achieve that peace with social justice, even if they must go to war. [40-second break in reception] ...putting an end to the causes of the war in our country and now shows no desire to respond positively to our peace proposal.

That is why our people continue struggling, that is why our people organize and fight, express themselves and protest, because they need that peace with social justice.

Meanwhile, political parties demogogically continue to try to deceive the people to gain [word indistinct]. The Patriotic Union recently said the meeting with members of our general command, which will take place on Monday, 20 February in Mexico, will only be a conventional meeting because in the long run the government and the Armed Forces are the ones who have decision-making power in our country.

Everybody knows the position of the Armed Forces. Recently [Defense Minister] General Vides Casanova declared war on the Salvadoran people. As all the political parties did at the beginning, he resorted to D'Aubuisson's constitution to reject the FMLN's political willingness.

The fact that Duarte refused to discuss our proposal at the recent summit of Central American presidents is merely an irresponsible attitude contrary to the people's interests.

Duarte, the high command, and [Foreign Minister] Acevedo Peralta—the representatives of a democracy of death squads—continue the yankee plan of accusing Nicaragua of not complying with the Esquipulas II agreement. However, Esquipulas is still alive because Nicaragua did not let the Central American puppet government give it a coup de grace. Everybody knows perfectly well who the real enemies of peace are, and Duarte, the high command and the yankees head this group of irresponsible leaders. The Salvadoran people, with their combative struggle, will wipe them away from our homeland forever.

Criticism of Woerner's Assessment of Situation

PA1902180289 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1300 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] [Passage indistinct] ...in El Salvador, Pentagon spokesmen, warmongering individuals such as Frederick Woerner of the Southern Command, have raised their war cry, sounding the drums of intervention in Central America. To this effect, we will be referring to the war cry

raised by this Southern Command chief, who said his gorillas of the high command are winning the war. It would seem as if the Pentagon spokesmen are up on the moon.

FMLN Announces Reduced Use of Car Bombs

PA2802014989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0103 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Communique: The FMLN is aware of the following:

1. At no time have our actions been aimed at intentionally harming the civilian population. We have always sought to defend and protect our people during our military operations.

2. In our recent attack operations on the Army's strategic garrisons located in the cities, civilians have been hurt by technical flaws and problems in the mobile artillery platforms, known as car bombs. Therefore, this tactical procedure has become highly dangerous for civilians. At no time did we mean to harm innocent civilians.

Because of the above, the FMLN General Command reports to our people and the international community our decision to suspend the use of the mobile artillery platforms, known as car bombs, in populated areas and during peak hours, because we deem that procedure is highly risky for civilians.

Our attacks on garrisons will continue with different and more precise weapons that pose the least risk to civilians. We reiterate our call to the people who live around the garrisons to move away from those zones, because the garrisons will become areas of increasing military activity, something that presents a danger to their safety.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Archbishop Appraises Mexico Talks With FMLN

PA2702215389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, the leader of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, yesterday described the agreements reached by political party representatives and an FMLN delegation in Mexico as a step forward, although not a very significant one. The San Salvador archbishop made these statements to reporters after his homily at the capital's Metropolitan Cathedral.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas, in progress] ...that is a step forward. When we promoted a national debate between the different segments of society, we wanted to hear all opinions; to find ways to deal with the in-depth problem, which is war and peace; and to seek a consensus. We see that this step has been taken, although the results have (?not been entirely satisfactory).

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the government to the new cease-fire and [words indistinct] proposals?

[Rivera y Damas] I think initial reactions are always confrontational. The important thing is that this agreement be discussed calmly, something that I am sure will be done.

[Question indistinct]

[Rivera y Damas] No, I was reviewing events [words indistinct] not to reject the proposal outright, but to think about it and to discuss points of convergence, which could lead to some agreement. We have seen that this has not been possible, but we cannot discount the possibility of concrete results. [end recording]

The Catholic leader also said the possibility that the FMLN peace proposal could bring peace to the country should not be ruled out. Although this is not the rebels' first proposal, it is the one that has sparked the most interest. Msgr Rivera y Damas stressed that the FMLN, the government, and the Armed Forces must not ignore the people's hope for peace, because they must never lose sight of the people.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas, in progress] ...calm, and I think the people's hopes must not be ignored. The FMLN, the government, and the Army must not lose sight of the people's hopes for peace.

[Question indistinct]

[Rivera y Damas] That is a proposal. There can be better ones, but there is no doubt that this one has elicited the interest of [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Rivera y Damas added that a few days before the presidential elections, the reemergence of death squads has claimed more lives. He said that although all the death squads had not been disbanded, for a while it seemed fewer of them were active. Now, he said, the death squads have stepped up their actions. Rivera y Damas also criticized the killing of two people by guerrilla car bombs near the San Carlos garrison in San Salvador. The Archdiocese's Legal Assistance Office also reported the death of 35 combatants throughout the country during the past week.

FMLN Military, Propaganda Actions Reported

PA2002041689

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 17 February broadcasts approximately 15 minutes of reports on recent FMLN actions.

The station first cites a report from the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front which notes that FMLN guerrillas attacked Military Detachment No 2 positions in Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Deparment, at 0200 on 17

February. According to the report, the detachment's communications center and helipad were among the installations attacked. The station claims the rebels inflicted 25 casualties on the Army, including a lieutenant, and recovered a large amount of war materiel.

The station then broadcasts a second report, this time from the Feliciano Ama Western Front, which states that the guerrillas carried out "a successful ambush" on 2d Infantry Brigade troops traveling from Santa Ana to San Salvador at 0725 on 17 February. The station adds that the rebels "used two powerful Feliciano Ama mines" in the ambush and inflicted 10 casualties on the infantry troops.

The station later reports that urban commando units perpetrated two attacks on military garrisons in San Miguel, one on the city's 6th Infantry Brigade headquarters and the other on its Atonal Battalion headquarters. According to the station, the rebels, using "four powerful explosive charges launched against each of the targets from mobile attack platforms," caused serious damage to the installations.

The station also carries a report from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front stating that FMLN militia units "used a powerful Manuel Jose Arce mine" to ambush a Cacahuatique Battalion patrol at 1130 on 17 February on the Guatajiagua-Yamabal highway. The station adds that the rebels caused three Army casualties in this action.

Radio Farabundo Marti then reports a clash between FMLN militia units and Lempa Battalion troops at 2300 on 15 February in Plan Grande, Santa Elena, Usulutan Department in which the Army reportedly suffered two casualties. The station reports that another guerrilla action occurred at the same time in Santa Elena, at the Civil Defense command headquarters. According to the report, the Army suffered two more casualties in this clash, which lasted for 3 hours and led to the deployment of 6th Infantry Brigade troops and a UH-1H helicopter to the site of the clash. The station adds that "at 0200, after accomplishing their mission, our units left the area without any problem."

The next report states that "at 1100 on 16 February, an FMLN guerrilla unit attacked soldiers of the Arce Battalion with rifle fire in Portillo Grande, San Gerardo Jurisdiction, San Miguel Department, inflicting two casualties."

Radio Farabundo Marti then reports various sabotage actions in Jiquilisco, Usulutan Department, stating that "on 15 February, clandestine militias sabotaged five power poles on the coastal highway, sabotaged the El Coyolito Bridge, and distributed propaganda urging youths to join the clandestine militias." The report adds that "on that same day, railroad lines were sabotaged and propaganda was distributed near San Judas Canton."

Later in the cast, the station reports more FMLN actions, saying that "at 2110 on 12 February, militia units sabotaged the power lines from Cerron Grande to the Nejapa substation, blowing up two power poles. This action took place in San Nicolas Canton, Apopa Jurisdiction, San Salvador Department." In addition, "at 2230 on 12 February, clandestine militia units sabotaged two power poles in La Libertad Department."

Another report says that "at 1900 on 11 February, members of the Pedro Pablo Castillo Urban Commando placed a bomb at the residence of Lieutenant Colonel (Herasmo Carranza) in San Jacinto neighborhood."

A report from Chalatenango says that "on 16 February, clandestine militias held a meeting with the population of Chalatenango explaining the FMLN peace proposal and distributing propaganda."

Additional reports from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front follow, noting that "at 0100 on 16 February, guerrillas carried out a harassment attack with rifle fire on a Military Detachment No 5 position near Las Guaras Bridge on the road from Suchitoto to San Martin," inflicting an undetermined number of casualties.

The station then reports several propaganda activities carried out by FMLN urban commandos in various parts of the country to explain the FMLN peace proposal.

Urban Guerrilla Strikes Noted

PA2002001689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Urban guerrilla units carried out sabotage actions against public buses this afternoon in various parts of San Salvador. At Valdivieso Avenue and San Antonio Abad Road, Molotov cocktails were used on two (Ragua) Company buses which were being repaired and another bus was set on fire and totally destroyed.

At least 12 subversives participated in the action. They arrived at the repair shop at approximately 1400. They stated that the buses, which travel between Sonsonate to San Salvador, would be destroyed to express the FMLN's repudiation of the latest arrests of members of mass organizations.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified worker] Two of us were outside the shop. They came to the shop and told us not to move, that they had nothing against us, and that they had come to set fire to the buses.

[Reporter] Did they use bombs to set the fire?

[Worker] No, they only had some bottles with gasoline, which they poured on the floor of the buses. They then threw matches and set the buses on fire.

[Reporter] How long did this take?

[Worker] Approximately 3 minutes. [end recording]

Following the rebel action, 1st Infantry Brigade troops began an operation on San Antonio Abad Road in an attempt to locate the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, in the Montebello neighborhood, an explosive device was used to destroy the motor of a bus assigned to route no 43. A passerby was slightly injured by the blast. The woman, who was taken by members of the Salvadoran Green Cross to Rosales Hospital, has not yet been identified. FMLN urban commandos have claimed credit for this attack.

Four guerrillas and a soldier were killed early this morning in fighting in Morazan and Cabanas Departments. Colonel (Rolando Erarte), commander of the 2d Military Detachment, reported that two rebels and a soldier were killed in fighting on the slopes of (Altona Hill), in the Villa Victoria area. According to the military commander, the rebels were attempting to destroy an Army communications center but were repelled by 2d Detachment troops, four of whom were wounded.

In other fighting, two rebels were killed in an armed confrontation with troops of the Cacahuatique Battalion in the Guatajiagua area. In addition, a dynamite attack this morning on the headquarters of the Association of Agronomists in the Flor Blanca neighborhood caused considerable damage.

Similarly, it was learned that last night FMLN guerrillas used explosive charges to destroy the Texaco gas station in Metapan, Santa Ana Department.

'Harassment' in San Vicente

PA2702123589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1205 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Report by Guillermo Cordoba in San Vicente, San Vicente Department]

[Text] Early this morning, FMLN guerrillas staged a harassment attack on positions of the 5th Infantry Brigade and security forces guarding this city. The units at checkpoints on the outskirts of San Vicente repelled the attack, which began from different directions at 0100. Several explosions were subsequently heard and a power outage began throughout the department. Electricity service has not yet been restored, and damage to the power lines has not been estimated. The harassment attack lasted approximately 30 minutes, but no casualties have been reported.

Military 'Repression,' Arrests Criticized

PA1902234089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Station commentary: "Repression Closes the Door to a Solution"]

[Text] From the moment the FMLN announced its political proposal to create the conditions and mechanisms for a political solution that will irreversibly lead us to peace with social justice, democratic and grass roots groups immediately responded. Since then, activities supporting the initiative have not stopped. Homeless and displaced people, students, public employees, and universities have conducted a number of activities to support the initiative, as it reflects their aspirations.

However, it is also true that since then the Armed Forces has not only rejected the possibility of a political solution to the conflict, but has also used state terrorism as its main instrument against those who participate in activities aimed at achieving peace with social justice, democracy, and sovereignty.

At the same time that [Defense Minister Carlos Eugenio] Vides Casanova and [Rene Emilio] Ponce [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] rejected the peace initiative, death squads in uniform and plainclothes have increased their terrorist actions against the people. The militarization of the capital and searches in poor sectors have become constant occurrences. Terrorist attacks on trade union offices continue, as do arrests of the people's leaders, such as Balmore Arevalo of the Bread, Land, Work, and Freedom Movement, who was wounded and is currently at Rosales Hospital in military custody.

In the past few hours, the National University in San Salvador was raided. The university has been the target of attacks from the regime ranging from economic strangulation to covert operations by the Armed Forces staff. This occurred a few hours after the tortured body of medical school student Rolando Ramos was found in a plastic bag dumped by death squads near the Zacamil neighborhood.

Meanwhile, Nora Carolina Mendez, a member of The Young Voice Literature Group at the Central American University [UCA], was arrested by the National Police, along with a girlfriend, in the San Jacinto neighborhood after participating earlier this week in a political-cultural activity at the civic plaza supporting the FMLN peace proposal.

On 14 February, members of the National Police searched the house of Ricardo Molina, a UCA psychology student. Because he was not home at the time, seven of his relatives were taken to [National Police Director Colonel Carlos] Guzman Aguilar's death squads garrison; the National Police, that is. Nora Carolina, her friend, and Ricardo Molina's seven relatives have been presented by Guzman Aguilar as members of San Salvador guerrilla urban commando units.

By carrying out all those actions, the Armed Forces is increasingly eliminating the real possibility of reaching peace. People are tired of elections with repression, fraud, and misery. People are not kidding when they talk about an imminent social explosion if this last alternative for a political solution for the crisis is eliminated. People are tired, and therefore have taken to the streets to support the FMLN proposal, which is a flexible, realistic, and feasible proposal. The people will continue fighting for peace with social justice and for real democracy!

Judicial Branch Employees Demand Wage Increase

PA1802184289 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Feb 89 p 2

[Excerpt] Approximately 2,000 judicial branch employees marched to the Legislative Assembly to request the assembly's support for their demand that the Executive Branch include them in the 200-colon government wage increase.

The wage increase, which was announced by the Finance Ministry, will not apply to judicial branch personnel under the premise that this government branch has its own budget.

The judicial branch employees said "it is regrettable that the Executive Branch has not included us in a general wage increase announced for all government employees." The judicial workers added that "we are also state workers, and therefore we are entitled to the raise, especially now that the announcement of the raise has caused an increase in the price of basic products."

Meanwhile, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputies expressed their total support for the demands of the judicial branch employees. The ARENA deputies were joined by MAC [Authentic Christian Movement], PCN [National Conciliation Party], and PDC [Christian Democratic Party] deputies in supporting the raise for judicial workers. [passage omitted]

Economy Ministry Requests Price Stability

PA1702193889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1221 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Economy Ministry has asked merchants not to increase the prices of staple commodities and to refrain from hoarding, which leads to shortages.

An Economy Ministry communique states that surveillance of marketplaces has been increased with the purpose of preventing the immoderate increase in the prices of staples.

It also called on consumers to report any irregularity they may see at the marketplace by calling telephone no 23-2370.

The Economy Ministry states that the purpose of conducting such inspections is to allow the wage increase for government employees to contribute toward increasing their purchasing power. Government employees have received wage increases, but private employees have not.

Guatemala

'Terrorists' Bomb Store 25 Feb; No Casualties

PA2602231089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2234 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A fragmentation grenade was thrown at an electrical housewares store in the southern part of the capital last night, causing only material damage and not injuring anyone, the police reported today.

Police officer Herlindo Herrera—who went to "Kismet," the store that was the target of the "act by terrorists"—said the grenade was thrown by "unidentified youths from a vehicle."

He added that "eyewitnesses to the attack" who were near the store "fortunately" were not injured by the shrapnel that penetrated the store's metal blinds, which were closed because the store had already closed for the day.

* Review of 1988 Human Rights Situation

* GAM Survey Cited

32480069 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 29 Dec 88 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 December—At the end of 1988, the problem of human rights violation appears as one of the greatest and most obvious stigmas on this third year of administration by President Vinicio Cerezo's government, according to expert opinions, but also based on a survey made by the Mutual Support Group (GAM) noting that, from February to November, 492 murders and 186 kidnappings occurred.

At least 80 percent of the cases reported by the GAM in its survey (prepared on the basis of press clippings) appear to have been politically motivated.

For example, it notes that, on 2 May, corpse "XX" was found in a plastic bag floating in a sea of sewage; the face was mutilated. That incident occurred in this capital.

The report on another case during the same month, on 14 May, states that "the body of Carlos Rene Castellanos, a university student, was found handcuffed and with bullet wounds." This took place in Sanarate, Jalapa.

Some cases leave room for doubt as to whether their origin was political, appearing rather to have been the result of common crime, such as that involving Mr Dalfido Figueroa Arriaza, whose body was found with multiple stab wounds in the Zone 7 Colonia Bethania of this city on 16 May.

What is certain about the matter is that human rights violations continue to be an apparently uncontrolled tendency in this country, even though this is the third consecutive year in which the political authority is being wielded by a civilian government of a "Christian Democratic" persuasion.

The "man of the year" (in Guatemala) himself, Monsignor Prospero Penados del Barrio, (according to the German news agency, DPA) has just told EL GRAFICO that "human rights are still being infringed upon in Guatemala."

But the member of the hierarchy points out that at least something has been achieved in this respect, compared with previous years, when the authority was exercised by military governments.

The monsignor remarked: "I believe that a little has been accomplished...there are still deaths, missing persons, and persecuted individuals, but we must also be honest—the number has declined. However, there continues to be disrespect for the Guatemalan as a human being."

This view is shared in its entirety by the human rights prosecutor, Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, who, incidentally, certainly came very close to the score attained by Monsignor Penados in the rating given by DPA for selecting the "man of the year."

The prosecutor himself also published his own report on human rights violations a few days ago. He disclosed that, during the course of the year now ending, 1,200 cases of violations of those rights were presented, and most of the charges were aimed at government officials.

The Center for Human Rights Research, Study and Promotion (CIEPRODH) has also arrived at similar conclusions.

The Problem Viewed From Outside

The reaction to the problem of human rights in Guatemala is not only internal.

In a report published last October, Amnesty International stated that, "Although the escalation of civil conflict and human rights violations was less last year than during the early years of the present decade, presumed critics and opponents of the government continued to be victims of arbitrary arrests, torture, disappearance, and extrajudicial executions. According to reports, the perpetrators of most of these abuses were members of the security forces dressed as civilians, who acted in the manner of the "death squads."

According to Amnesty International in a previous report, "During General Lucas' time...over 60,000 persons were murdered in less than a decade."

Dr Hector Gross Spiell, a UN expert on human rights, was recently in Guatemala and, although he agrees with the majority that "violations of these rights have declined," he remarked that they are continuing.

In this connection, it was learned that the Guatemalan Government is awaiting with concern his report to the Geneva assembly next February, especially since the massacre of peasants at El Aguacate.

Finally, it should be noted that, in the external area, just yesterday a Reuter's cable from New York was released here, in which it is reported that a private investigating group with headquarters in Washington, responsible for watching Latin America, has cited our country as the worst violator of those rights. Colombia and El Salvador rank in second and third place, respectively. The agency in question is known as the "Council on Hemispheric Affairs."

The council claims that President Cerezo "is essentially powerless to prevent human rights violations," and hence calls upon him to resign.

What the Government Says

The president of the republic, Vinicio Cerezo, discussed this issue in his Christmas message, declaring: "We have also achieved tranquillity where there had been violence. We have improved very much; the political violence and repression used by previous governments have disappeared forever; the constant, violent confrontation among Guatemalans has disappeared. There are but few who currently think that violence is the proper device for settling differences. We can claim that we have virtually achieved peace...."

In a television interview, the defense minister, General Hector Alejandro Gramajo, for his part, claimed this week that "political violence has declined drastically," but warned that "crime is something else"; with regard to this problem he noted, "we are concerned," noting that the Army is interested in cooperating to combat it through the SIPROCI (Civil Protection System).

* 1,200 Violations Claimed

32480069 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Dec 88 p 11

[Text] Institutions such as the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor and the Center for Human Rights Research, Study and, Promotion [CIEPRODH], as well

as organizations such as the Mutual Support Group and Unity of Trade Union and Popular Action (UASP) claim that human rights are still being flagrantly violated.

The head of the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor, Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, disclosed that, during the year about to end, 1,200 cases of violations of such rights were presented, and that most of the accusations were aimed at governnment officials.

For its part, CIEPRODH, headed by the professional Factor Mendez, has noted that since the first quarter human rights violations have shown an upward trend. Most of the cases recorded involved violations of the right to life.

Meanwhile, the Mutual Support Group, typified by its constant challenging of the government, has not only pointed out that there is an increase in repression, but has also brought charges against security forces, some of whose members are reported to be engaging in psychological warfare in order to disband it.

Unity of Trade Union and Popular Action has also raised its voice in protest against what it considers attacks upon freedom of organization and human rights. In the recent demonstration that it called, it launched heavy attacks against the National Army.

* Violations Decrease

32480069 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Human rights prosecutor Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva will submit his annual activities report to the Congress of the Republic's Human Rights Commission, as the official announced yesterday.

According to the law governing the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor, in Chapter 3, Article 15, the prosecutor must submit his report during the second half of January every year.

This will be the first report from the Prosecutor's Office since it was created on 19 October 1987. During that interval, the Prosecutor's Office heard over 1,200 cases of human rights violations in which the leading figures were government officials, according to Menendez de la Riva.

Compared with previous military regimes, human rights violations have declined notably up until the present, claimed the prosecutor, who expressed concern over the recent cases, such as the one in El Aguacate, and the sinking of the boat at Amatique Bay, in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

Menandez de la Riva claimed that all the cases heard and those being heard currently are significant. They include one involving the rise in prices of electric power service, for which the dismissal of Rene de Leon Escribano, head of the National Institute of Electrification, was sought.

Another case involves the confiscation of books by the Army's intelligence section at a book store in Zone 1, where they seized books claiming that they comprised Marxist-Leninist literature. The shutdown of various news media, including two television news programs, is another case evoking concern, according to the prosecutor.

The report also deals with the trafficking of children abroad, the charges by the Mutual Support Group of clandestine cemeteries, the students killed in Quetzaltenango, and other matters.

* Basic Rights Redefined

32480069 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, the human rights prosecutor, thinks that the national police who arrested our fellow worker, Nestor Hernandez Marroquin, at the entrance to the Capital Center on 5 July of this year violated free access to information.

The official noted that he had at hand, for a decision, the charge brought by the head of the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalists relating to the abuse of which the aforementioned reporter was a victim.

In his decision, Menendez de la Riva states that, following the investigations that were conducted, the veracity of the incidents claimed in the charge was demonstrated.

This veracity "has been proven, and not only because the report submitted by the Internal Investigations Department of the National Police Office of Liability, on 26 October of this year, was submitted beyond the legal deadline," claimed the prosecutor.

He added that, in this report, "It is noted that agent Jose Rene Garrido Morales, in an arrogant manner, told the reporter that he would have problems for having taken those photographs, because he was hampering his police work by so doing."

The police report also remarks that meetings were held with several persons employed at the Capitol Center, who claimed to have seen one agent in particular, and others in uniform, removing the reporter from the site.

For all these reasons, the prosecutor is of the opinion that the police, in taking action against reporter Hernandez Marroquin, violated Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In conclusion, De la Riva recommends to the National Police general director that he issue instructions to all members of the institution not to commit such abuses violating human rights that are guaranteed by our Political Constitution in the future.

The prosecutor received at his office a visit by an Austrian delegation to discuss issues relating to human rights violations in Guatemala.

The delgation consisted of the minister of agriculture, Hermann Schaller; diplomats Kurt Wimmer, Ohmann Tauschmann, and Heich Hersog; Deputy Maria Rauch; journalists Andrea Schaller and Michel Schaller; Professor Wemmmwe Romich; and the director of the Austrian-Guatemalan Institute, Walther Fischer.

Menendez brought up major issues such as the trafficking of children abroad, the sale of human organs, and the work done by the Mutual Support Group.

Regarding the complaints received from foreign nongovernment agencies, such as Amnesty International and the group of exiles in Mexico, RUOG, which charged constant violations in that country, the prosecutor discussed accusations made by trade union groups and news media.

The assistant prosecutor, Arturo Martinez, noted that there are many significant cases which have been reported to the news media, such as that of the university students murdered by national policemen in Quetzaltenango.

Martinez also declared that, during this regime, major human rights violations have declined in comparison with the previous military regimes.

Menendez de la Riva explained to the Austrian commission that the main problem encountered to date has been the inability to use the auxiliaries in all departments, but only in Quetzaltenango, Solola, Suchitepequez, Mazatenango, Peten, and Quiche.

The journalists in the delegation obtained information on certain internationally significant issues which will be of great interest, because this human rights agency is the first one to be established in America.

* Workers Denied Rights

32480069 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 5

[Text] The Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor declared as accepted the charge brought by Conrado Solis Gonzalez, assistant secretary general of the United Workers Union of the National Port Enterprise, claiming that authorities of the aforementioned enterprise were violating the workers' human rights.

The foregoing statement was made by the human rights prosecutor, Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, who also noted that, in a resolution issued on 29 November, the Prosecutor's Office declared that the general manager of the National Port Enterprise, Professor Ruben Gonzalez, had violated the human rights of that entity's workers.

He added that this resolution was issued by the Prosecutor's Office after the first assistant human rights prosecutor and the director of the Family, Child, and Labor Affairs Area had visited the facilities on 18 November.

He added that the charge brought by Solis was that the workers were being kept in places far removed from the facilities and not allowed to enter in order to perform their work.

He also remarked that this had been proven by the prosecutor, who visited the area and, based on the report, issued an invitation to the manager to appear at the Prosecutor's Office.

He commented: "The manager didn't show up, and only the chairman of the board of directors, Carlos Francisco Veliz Ponce, appeared."

In the resolution issued, the Prosecutor's Office ordered stoppage of the violation, and restoration of the human rights that had been infringed upon, cancelling the measures adopted against the port workers.

Finally, it also ordered the port authorities to report to the Prosecutor's Office within a period not to exceed 30 days.

According to Menendez de la Riva, a copy of the resolution was submitted to President Vinicio Cerezo.

* Further Redefinition

32480069 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Jan 89 p 6

[Text] According to an official report, the death by drowning of close to 100 persons when the boat on which they were traveling sank during the trip from Livingston to Puerto Barrios, Izabal, is being investigated by the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor.

Human rights prosecutor Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva opened an investigation to ascertain the causes of the sinking of the vessel, Justo Rufino Barrios II, which occurred on 1 January in Amatique Bay.

Although Menendez de la Riva has not voiced any opinion in the matter, certain officials from that entity have claimed that there was a violation of the most fundamental human rights on the boat which sank with over 120 passengers.

During the course of the investigation that has been opened, the Prosecutor's Office will attempt to establish which person or persons are really responsible for this tragedy, which has grieved so many Guatemalan families.

Moreover, it was noted in the Prosecutor's Office that the irresponsibility and negligence of the individuals who participated in the management, equipping, and authorization of the boat for the trip both before and after the tragedy were reprehensible from any standpoint.

It was declared in the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor that the Livingston tragedy last Sunday was one of the worst on record in the bay during recent times.

* Babies' Rights Violated

32480069 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] Quetzaltenango—"It couldn't have been more predictable," commented persons who learned that human rights are being violated in the Western General Hospital, with an act committed against newborns; due to the scarcity of furniture, two of them are placed in a single small crib, regardless of whether they are healthy or not.

Despite the many promises to improve people's health, the hospital situation is still going from bad to worse. Every day there is confirmation of the claim made by a deputy from Quiche to the effect that these centers are nothing but boarding houses for an unpleasant death, and that if the same situation continues many of them could be closed.

This serious situation was attested to recently by the human rights prosecutor himself, who deplored the chaotic manner in which the patients are treated. On that occasion, he promised to convey his observations to the pertinent authorities; however, the problem is still the same: there are no medicines or nightclothes, and the food is becoming increasingly meager.

When some physicians and paramedical personnel were interviewed, good will alone is not enough to offer better care to the patients, most of whom are abjectly poor.

What concerns Quetzaltenango residents is the fact that the old building occupied by the St John of God Hospital could collapse at any moment—its roof has rusty, warped shingles—because it has been over a century and half since there was the slightest hope that the "modern white elephant" would go into service.

If this situation is not solved for Quetzaltenango, described as the country's second ranking city, what can be expected for towns and villages in the interior section of the country?

Nicaragua

Ortega Comments on Talks With Opposition

PA2702185189 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Unattributed report on speech by President Daniel Ortega commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Masaya uprising at the Joaquin Chamorro Plaza in Masaya, Nicaragua on 25 February—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] At the main event marking the 11th anniversary of the Masaya uprising, Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra said that the opposition parties that have not yet accepted a dialogue to achieve peace are irresponsible. Speaking at Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Plaza, President Daniel Ortega explained to the people that the talks with the opposition parties seek to find points of agreement in order to begin the electoral process.

[Ortega] "Let the people decide in 1990 who will govern them; let them decide whether the FSLN will continue to govern or whether a rightist party or a party that is not in favor of the change that occurred on 19 July 1979 will govern. The people will decide this in 1990. That is democracy, that is part of democracy. Let the people decide, let the people vote."

The president said the parties that have not yet accepted the dialogue are irresponsible and are working against peace.

[Ortega] "They are exhibiting an incorrect and contemptible attitude because they did not hesitate to lick the boots of imperialism, the boots of Reagan. They are real bootlickers of imperialism, yet they do not want to talk with the Nicaraguan Government."

He warned that the granting of pardons is necessary to achieve peace. He also mentioned that since the triumph of the revolution, more than 2,000 Somozist guardsmen have been pardoned.

[Ortega] "We tell the brothers who died here in Masaya in that heroic struggle in February that if they were capable of giving up their lives, we will not be cowards. We will not betray them. We will confront the economic problems, we will solve the economic problems. We will go to the elections, we will win the elections. And we will continue to defend the revolution because this is their revolution and we, who are alive while they are martyrs, are duty-bound to defend it."

Commentary Views FSLN-Opposition Dialogue

PA2402141089 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Station editorial read by Radio Corporacion owner Jose Castillo: "A Leopard Cannot Change Its Spots"]

[Text] According to the Sandinist government, the dialogue with the opposition political parties should resume today. However, as usual, the obstinacy of those in power prevails. The dialogue with the 14 opposition political parties was interrupted in April 1988. Since that time, the government has not given any sign of wanting to resume it. The opposition parties that took part in the dialogue demanded 17 constitutional amendments in order to begin a democratization process. The government rejected those demands. That is when the dialogue reached an impasse. The opposition's requests to resume the dialogue were useless, because there was no way to convince the government to resume it.

The same thing happened to the talks with the Nicaraguan Resistance. They died when the dialogue with the civic opposition stalled.

Now the government has used the tactic of inviting a few parties to the dialogue. Those who are being invited, however, must send their demands beforehand so the government is aware of them. According to previous agreements, the 14 opposition political parties would not accept bilateral talks with the government because the solutions to be achieved concerned all of the nation's active sectors.

The government has clearly said the dialogue will center on the elections, thus putting aside the discussion on constitutional amendments, which is the beginning of democratization in Nicaragua.

Official spokesmen added that the first thing to be discussed is the number of parties that will participate in the dialogue. That sounds discriminatory already, because if 14 or 15 opposition parties attended the dialogue until April 1988, they should obviously attend this new round of negotiations.

We do not see the reason why the names of the parties that will or will not participate in the presidential, municipal, legislative, autonomous region, and Central American parliament elections should be given now. That would be like playing cards and demanding that everyone show their hands before the betting starts. When one builds a house, one begins by building the foundation, not the roof. The government must first state the conditions under which the elections will be held and what amendments will be made, not only to the electoral code or to the law regulating the media, which should be abolished, but to the Constitution, which will guarantee democracy and clean elections.

Official spokesmen have said the government will listen to the opposition's opinions regarding the elections. Nicaraguans and people throughout the world know what the opposition has been demanding and it is not just elections, which, in fact, have never been requested by the opposition. The decision about the elections was a unilateral one that came as a result of the commitments made by President Ortega at the San Salvador summit. It is, therefore, illogical to say now that the government needs to know what the opposition wants. For 10 years the only thing the opposition has vehemently and decisively requested is the democratization of the Sandinist government and freedom in the country. That has been the opposition's demand and its cohesive force.

The government's sleights of hand further complicate matters. It is time to speak clearly. There is already a commitment, Esquipulas II, and it involves democratization, free and clean elections, respect for human rights, absolute freedom of the press, absolute freedom for political parties, and total amnesty.

We do not understand the Sandinist government's new position of wanting to know who will participate in the elections. Let us solve this problem once and for all to help the country.

RN's Cesar Supports Opposition; May Return

PA2502222889 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] During a telephone interview yesterday, Alfredo Cesar of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] told LA PRENSA that he will return to Nicaragua when the domestic civic opposition reports that there are favorable conditions in the country to hold fair elections.

Cesar asserted that the statement issued by the FSLN's Agitation and Propaganda Department that he would return to Nicaragua to be a candidate at the planned 25 February 1990 elections is a lie.

The RN leader said that he will return to Nicaragua when "those inside the country" tell him that an election campaign can begin, but he stressed that he would not be a candidate. He would come to support the civic opposition ticket. Cesar said that the civic opposition has the final word right now. "It is difficult to come from the outside and decide what is to be done," Cesar told LA PRENSA. He denied all the Sandinist rumors, which, he said, are attempts to divide the opposition.

The exiled leader admitted that there had been a misunderstanding within the RN directorate following his statements at the Salvadoran summit. Cesar said in El Salvador that he would be willing to return to Nicaragua after [Nicaraguan President Daniel] Ortega had implemented what he offered to do, because if he keeps his promises, Ortega would be inaugurating a new phase in Nicaraguan history.

However, Cesar denied that they [members of the RN directorate] had tried to expel him from the directorate. According to the organization's bylaws, the directorate can only remove him from his position if two-thirds of the votes are issued against him at the forthcoming internal elections in July. Cesar believes that there would not be enough votes to expel him because the Democratic Center Coalition that he heads controls 40 percent of the votes.

If Cesar returns to Nicaragua, he would do so with all the exiled forces that he claims to lead in order to support the opposition's ticket.

RN Voices 'Satisfaction' With Summit Outcome

PA2402153689 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 47

[Paid advertisement from the Nicaraguan Resistance issued in San Salvador, El Salvador on 17 February: "The Nicaraguan Resistance's Position"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] accepts with satisfaction the Central American presidents' declaration issued on 14 February in San Salvador, which states that "the Esquipulas II and Alajuela declaration commitments are a common and indivisible whole."

The RN has noted the partial actions that the Sandinist government has promised to implement immediately within the context of Esquipulas II. These actions will be the initial steps to achieve democratization and reconciliation in Nicaragua, and they must be complemented with the fulfillment of other Esquipulas II commitments, especially general amnesty; the separation of state, party, and army; and absolute respect for human rights.

The RN reaffirms its desire to participate in a tripartite dialogue with the internal civic opposition and the Sandinist government in order "to achieve negotiated solutions to overcome the conflicts caused by the Central American crisis."

The RN has offered on different occasions to lay down its weapons in exchange for true democratization. If the San Salvador declaration, Esquipulas II, Alajuela, and Sapoa agreements are fulfilled, these demands will have been satisfied. Consequently, the RN considers it appropriate to start talks immediately with the democratic Central American presidents to contribute to the complete fulfillment of the aforementioned agreements.

The RN reaffirms its support and confidence for Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the Nicaraguan National Reconciliation Commission, and patriotically appeals that, in keeping with the mandate granted by the presidents, he verify and report on the Sandinist government's fulfillment of the promises made at San Salvador as well as compliance with the Esquipulas and Alajuela agreements.

The historic responsibility that the Central American presidents assumed implies far-reaching consequences for the region's future.

The RN understands this joint declaration the last opportunity that the democratic Central American presidents have given the Sandinist government to comply with Esquipulas II and that this declaration is not an instrument to obtain economic and political advantages to serve for the consolidation of a totalitarian regime.
Adolfo Calero, Aristides Sanchez, Wilfredo Montalvan, Wycliff Diego, Roberto Ferrey, Enrique Bermudez
Julio Rosales, RN public relations
San Salvador, El Salvador, 17 February 1989

Pastora Optimistic on Obtaining Amnesty Law
PA2302135989 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Statement by former ARDE leader Eden Pastora on 21 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The process of obtaining an amnesty law in Nicaragua will continue, despite the impasse it reached before. The summit in El Salvador and the talks with the political parties in Nicaragua have generated positive expectations. The main thing is that the FSLN of 1988 and 1989 is not the same FSLN of 1983, 1984, and 1985. That gives us hope of returning to Nicaragua in the near future. That gives hope to all peasants, workers, and Nicaraguans in general who are in exile. It gives them hope of returning to Nicaragua and joining the country's life. That would give us a chance to participate in the democratization of the Nicaraguan revolution.

We are revolutionaries and we want a free, democratic revolution. We want a revolution that respects human rights, and we are observing some of that respect in the change the FSLN is now making. It is a positive change, and we believe we can tell the Nicaraguan people, including peasants, workers, students, industrialists, and businessmen, that we will be marching from San Jose to Managua thanks to that amnesty. We will arrive in Nicaragua to talk with our people and to join the country's normal life and the process of national reconstruction and reunification of the Nicaraguan family.

Radio Catolica Requests Resumption of Newscast
PA2502233789 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo again sent a written request to the Interior Ministry's Media Department to reopen the "Church" ["Iglesia"] newscasts that had been broadcast three times a day at that radio station.

The request stated: "Backed by the spirit of the Central American presidents' joint statement issued on 14 February, I write to you to request that the 'Church' newscasts be allowed to resume to ensure Radio Catolica's free operation as a media source."

Msgr Carballo's letter said that in July 1988, "we were forced to suspend our newscasts temporarily.... We want the restoration of our legitimate right to inform the people free of restrictions as stated in the Declaration of Universal Human Rights."

The Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity (CAUS) also issued a communique publicly demanding that the Sandinist Government immediately reopen the "Church" newscasts.

The CAUS communique added: "We urge the Nicaraguan Committee in Defense of Freedom of Expression, formed by delegates from the 14 opposition political parties and independent journalists, to carry out the tasks for which it was created." The CAUS communique also demanded the opening of the aforementioned Nicaraguan Catholic Church newscast.

Money Problems Shut Down Radio Station
PA1702221689 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 89 p 5

[Summary] Juigalpa, Chontales—Radio Revolucion, an FM radio station in Chontales, has been off the air for the past week because of lack of funds to purchase needed spare parts. The station is in financial difficulty because the government has suspended its subsidies to radio stations.

The station's staff has refused to continue working for Radio Revolucion, some because they have not been paid and others because their wages are too low.

The radio station is a member of the progrovernment Peoples Radio Broadcasting Corporation.

Comments by Panamanian Assembly President Noted
PA2602033789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] Panamanian National Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo said last night that if the Bush administration wants harmonious relations with the Latin American peoples, "he must change his policies toward the continent." Carrizo called on Latin Americans to "remain united to gain respect."

Upon arriving in Nicaragua at the invitation of National Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez to attend the ceremony to inaugurate the Assembly's fifth period of sessions, Dr Carrizo said that Panama was pleased with the agreements reached by the Central American presidents at the summit in El Salvador. He added that talks are the best means to solve each country's problems.

Carrizo said: "As the country that first hosted the Contadora Group as the forum for the Central American peace talks and negotiations, we are pleased with the summit's achievements, mainly because we strongly support dialogue. In this respect, the Nicaraguan Government has continued its support for dialogue and we are now seeing the results."

Carrizo explained that he supported Latin American integration as "something we all need" and because "that is only way for the continent to make progress that will cause others to respect us."

After noting that relations between the Panamanian and Nicaraguan Governments are excellent, Carrizo confirmed his country's rejection of meddling in the internal affairs of any country. He noted that having suffered the impact of U.S. meddling, "our peoples have grown closer."

Regarding the Nicaraguan Constitution, Carrizo said that it is the right of every country to set its own rules. "I believe that Nicaraguans are taking measures to fulfill the wishes of the majority and those measures are therefore the right ones," he said.

Speaking as the Contadora Group representative, the Panamanian Assembly president referred to the failure of Ronald Reagan's policies in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua. He expressed his trust in George Bush's "wisdom" to establish harmonious relations with the Latin American Continent to contribute to the cause of integration "for the everyone's sake."

Carrizo was accompanied by Foreign Relations Commission President Hugo Giraud. During his stay here, Giraud will meet with his Nicaraguan counterpart.

The Guatemalan Congress president and the Latin American Parliament vice president will also be attending the inauguration of the National Assembly's fifth period of sessions. Dominican deputies and newsmen will arrive today in Managua. They will listen to President Daniel Ortega's annual report.

Swedish Energy Minister Promises More Aid
PA1802143389 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Sweden will encourage other governments to support and cooperate with Nicaragua, Swedish Energy and Environment Minister Birgitta Dahl said today. She also said her country will increase aid to Nicaragua.

The Swedish minister met with Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, with whom she discussed the peace efforts in the region and the steps taken by the Managua government to reach an agreement. The Swedish minister invited the FSLN to the Socialist International congress. At the end of the meeting, she said her visit coincides with a historic opportunity to achieve peace.

[Begin recording of Dahl in Swedish with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] Following my stay here and following my talks with different officials, I have the impression that the Nicaraguan people, the FSLN, and the government have gone to the negotiations in El Salvador with a spirit of openness and much generosity. I also have the impression that preparations have been made for the next phase, which will be a lasting peace. I told the Nicaraguan Government that the Swedish Government is willing to continue giving support to Nicaragua. [end recording]

Sweden has provided Nicaragua with $40 million in aid. Dahl visited a factory in which a Swedish organization invested $5 million.

EPS Kills 4, Wounds 2 Contras in Matiguas
PA1702155089 Managua El NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p 7

[Text] Matagalpa—Four contras have been killed and two wounded during an EPS search operation. These contras had attacked La Brasilia Cooperative, Matiguas Municipality, 145 km northeast of Matagalpa, on Wednesday 8 February.

The 6th Region's EPS Public Relations Office said the casualties were inflicted on 10 February during a clash with La Dalia's Reserve Brigade 362.

La Brasilia Cooperative has been attacked twice in less than 1 month. Three civilians were injured during Wednesday night's attack, and four homes were burned down.

A military source confirmed that the contra group, which carried out the attack with mortar and rifle fire, belonged to the Santiago Meza Regional Command of the so-called FDN. The contras launched the attack from the hills around the cooperative while the latter's staff was sleeping.

Wounded in the mercenary attack were Francisco Lopez, Silvestre Blandon, and Nicolas Urbina, civilians from Matiguas Municipality. They were immediately taken to the local health center.

Contras Reportedly Kill 5 in 15 Feb Attack

PA1802172989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1942 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Report by Matagalpa correspondent Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] Five people, including an EPS lieutenant, were killed, two were wounded, and three were kidnapped during a contra attack on El Guapinol, in the Apantillo del Sabalar area, 80 km from the city of Matagalpa.

The Defense Ministry's Public Relations Office reports the attack took place at 2200 yesterday. The report says EPS Lieutenant Alfredo Del Carmen Uveda, 20; Josefa U. de Montenegro, 30; Justo Sequeira Uveda, 15; and Leonel Sequeira Uveda, 7, were killed. In addition, Manuel Sequeira and Elba Davila Sanchez were wounded, three people—among them Rafael Castillo and Bernabe Diaz—were kidnapped, and two houses were partially destroyed. The contras also killed Adventist Church leader Miguel Hernandez in La Parra yesterday.

The Interior Ministry reports that on 10 February, also in La Parra, 17 peasants were kidnapped by a mercenary group headed by contra leader Walter from the 15 September Command. Seven of the kidnapped peasants later escaped.

New Economic, Business Publication Announced

PA1902011489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Summary] A new publication entitled ISTAZO ECONOMICO, published by economist Juan Jose Medina, will be available next week. VISTAZO ECONOMICO will be a bulletin dedicated to economic and business issues, Medina explained. This economic bulletin will contain interviews, viewpoints, and analysis from the most prominent Nicaraguan economists and businessmen and will be published three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The first issue will be published on Monday, 20 February, and each issue will cost approximately 5,000 cordobas.

Panama

PDC Accused of Vandalizing Mayor's Office

PA2502193089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Feb 89 pp 1, 14

[Report by Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] At the order of the U.S. Embassy in Panama and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leadership, activists from that ultrarightist political group have engaged in acts of vandalism throughout the country in order to cause destabilization.

A group of reckless PDC fanatics violently broke into the mayor's office in Arraijan and painted the walls of the office with PDC slogans opposing the current constitutionally established government and frightening the employees who were on a break.

Yesterday at 1230, five individuals drove up in a red Datsun with license number 8-49052 and, after taking some pictures of the building where the Arraijan mayor's office is located, violently broke into that office and painted PDC slogans on the walls with green spray paint.

The two secretaries who were still in the office were understandably frightened because among the slogans was the word "terror" and others promoting violence.

Members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], with the support of angry local residents, were able to capture three of the five terrorists; they were identified as Jose Rafael Mitre Hill, Jose Rafael Mitre Sanchez, and Valentin Camarena Fernandez. They were taken to the local FDP station in Arraijan, where they were turned over to Police Magistrate Fernando Tunon, who said the terrorists could be fined $180 or sent to prison for 6 months, in accordance with Administrative Code regulations.

Finally, there has been some speculation about the vandalism carried out by dissident PDC groups in open violation of human rights and possibly linked to a systematic campaign aimed at undermining the elections scheduled for 7 May 1989.

PDC Decries Members' Arrest

PA2502131989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0049 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's Christian Democratic Party today denounced the arrest of two of its members, one of whom is seeking an alternate seat in the Legislative Assembly, by members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Jose Rafael Hill and his son Jose, who is seeking a legislative seat, were arrested when Jose was caught photographing posters of Rigoberto Paredes, a ruling party legislator, at the mayor's office in Arraijan, 15 km from Panama City.

Both detainees are in FDP custody, PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon, who is also a vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), told ACAN-EFE.

Arias Calderon said Jose Rafael Hill and his son may remain in custody over the weekend, although he said his party's attorney is seeking their release.

The ADOC is contesting the 7 May elections with the National Liberation Coalition, a block of eight parties that support Manuel Solis Palma's government.

Editorial on Terrorism Threat; PDC Implicated
PA2502203889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "To Those Who Want To Use Terror..."]

[Text] Terror can be detected when it begins, but it is hard to know when it ends, if it does. This is because once the wave of terror begins, it does not stop until it has destroyed the best aspects of people, leaving behind only rubble and bones.

Without exaggerating, one can say our country is an oasis in Central America—and in most of Latin America—as far as security for its inhabitants is concerned.

Panamanians, regardless of their political affiliation, can still walk on our streets without fearing that a terrorist—due to fanaticism, or under the instructions of paramilitary groups—will sow death, pain, and destruction along his way by shooting a gun or hurling a bomb.

However, we are not free—and we cannot always be the exception—from irresponsible individuals who are willing to light the fuse, to start the fire, that could begin an endless night of terror that will immerse the entire Panamanian family in the most absurd of human dramas: the extermination of brothers by brothers, in a continuous cycle of revenge.

Due to the upcoming elections, there have been some attempts by members of the Christian Democratic Party, under the instructions of U.S. Embassy personnel, to disrupt order in some parts of the country. There have been sporadic attempts, which so far have been detected and prevented without any major consequences. However, this could be the beginning of actions that we would all regret later because of the resulting death and destruction.

It would not be a waste of time or newsprint to stress once again the popular saying "No one knows what he has until he loses it." Peace is such a slippery possession that it can slip away from us like a wish on the wings of a lost dream. Like spilled water, we would never be able to recover it.

Solis Palma on Relations With Latin America
PA2502172189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 21 Feb 89 pp 1, 20

[Report by Ruben Vasquez Perez]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At a news conference after his arrival in Mexico City, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said U.S. aggression against his country is now in its 20th month. [passage omitted]

He added that his government will provide guarantees so the upcoming presidential elections will take place in a climate of total security. However, he said "we will support by all means the political alternative that ensures the defense of our nation's sovereignty." [passage omitted] He commented that Panama "is ready to face aggression. We will defend ourselves to the last man." He also said there is even the possibility that in the near future Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries may be used in a mercenary army against Panama. Solis Palma added: "We think the United States knows it cannot impose on us through elections an individual that will be subject to its wishes and interests. That is why a military invasion is very likely."

Solis Palma's government favors formal democracy. Some aspects, however, such as freedom of expression, are formalities that we respect but which must exist within a framework of respect for Panamanian democracy, he said. "We do not feel other aspects of formal democracy are the most pressing problems. Moreover, we think a decision on whether a country may or may not rejoin a group should not be based on that country's internal affairs," he commented, referring to the Group of Eight.

He explained that although Panama is out of the Group of Eight and the Contadora Group—Panama was one of that group's founders—his government adheres to the principles that inspired their creation, such as searching for peace in Central America through dialogue and cooperation, not through war.

"We adhere to those principles. If the Group of Eight feels our attitude does not conform to their new guidelines, we are sorry, but we are not going to make an issue of it," he said

Regarding Manuel Antonio Noriega's position as commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], Solis Palma said Noriega's removal must be based on FDP regulations and institutions.

Moreover, he recalled that following the crisis during last February and March, Panama noticed a cooling in its diplomatic relations with the rest of Latin America—"with the exception of Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua." He said that situation has changed following a SELA

meeting where area countries voiced their willingness to cooperate with Panama again. However, this positive step has not yet materialized.

The Panamanian president described relations with Mexico as broad and cordial. Regarding Venezuela, he commented that although Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez "is a good friend of our country," he has a different opinion of what Panama's democracy should be. [passage omitted] In conclusion, Solis Palma said he does not meddle in the affairs of the other government branches, referring to his country's closed news media—four newspapers and one radio station—currently being investigated by the Attorney General's Office. He said they will be reopened based on the results of the investigation conducted to find out if they undermined the security of the Panamanian state.

COLINA's Boyd Comments on U.S. Relations

PA2502032289 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Feb 89 pp 1, 14

[By Euclides M. Corro]

[Text] After stating that Panama has advanced toward national liberation despite the war the United States has declared on us and in which we have defeated them, Aquilino Boyd, second vice presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA], added that "we are marching firmly toward clean, honest, and just elections, Panamanian style, to perfect our democracy."

Speaking on behalf of the COLINA slate before a large number of government employees who gathered at the Majestic Theater in Panama City, Boyd stressed that Panama is showing the world, especially Latin America, "that we are a team of responsible men who, with firmness and determination, demand that the United States fulfill its duty, which is strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

Amid cheers for the winning ticket [as published] in the upcoming elections and in the presence of Carlos Duque and Ramon Sieiro, the speaker added that the U.S. aggression had no other purpose than to "destroy a firm government installed in power by Torrijos to lead us to conquer the canal in 1999."

Boyd aded: "I would say that throughout this year of war, which began exactly 364 days ago, we have made progress. We began advancing toward national liberation when Panama removed a president who left unpleasant memories and who is now a phantom roaming the world pretending that he represents a government whose only seat is in the United States of North America."

While thanking the Planning Ministry, Agricultural Ministry, National Port Authority, and IFARHU [Human Resources Education and Training Institute] workers for their enthusiasm and support, Boyd added that "we are experiencing difficult times for the Republic, but these are challenges that the Panamanian patriots must face with faith and hope in the future of Panama."

Boyd added that the United States had been defeated in its disinformation war unleashed in June 1986, when "we began to realize that there was a plot against the state and the Panamanian people and not against a worthy patriot like Manuel Antonio Noriega."

"Later came the war against our financial security and our banking center. Panama was absurdly accused of laundering drug money, but they knew perfectly well that coca is not grown in Panama. Coca is grown in Bolivia and Peru. They knew perfectly well that cocaine is not processed in Panama; that is done by the Medellin and Cali cartels."

Boyd continued on to say that the enemies of this process are quite mistaken if they think the United States is going to accept them. "The gringos are very practical people, and they know that the enemies of the process will not be able to meet the demands that the United States will make on Panama in the commercial and industrial areas and in all areas, except for matters related to the revision of treaties or military bases in Panama, to which we would never agree."

The COLINA candidate stressed that "we want to normalize relations with the United States, but with relations based on mutual respect and, above all, reaffirming with every step we take that we are a free, independent, and sovereign nation capable of having its own independent and nonaligned foreign policy; a foreign policy not drafted by the United States."

In conclusion, Boyd said that Carlos Duque's and the COLINA slate's main concern is to boost "the recovery of the Panamanian economy in order to create new jobs and build the Panama we all want; a Panama where the urban and rural man can feel that he is protected by stable laws and where private enterprise can feel that it is investing in a country that has faith in its future."

Isolda Springer, Eric Bernal, Jose Isaac Acosta, and other representatives of the government workers present at the event addressed the gathering. Everyone agreed on the need to retake the Torrijist path.

COLINA Campaigns in Herrera Province

PA2502185389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by Jairo Posada on 23 February speech by Aquilino Boyd, National Liberation Coalition second vice presidential candidate, in Chitre, Herrera Province]

[Text] The National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, presidential ticket continued its intensive campaign tour in Herrera Province yesterday and listened to comments from workers who filled the National Institute of Telecommuncations [INTEL] clubhouse in Chitre.

Aquilino Boyd was the keynote speaker. He underscored the nationalistic struggle being waged by Panama and the key role being played by the majority of patriotic Panamanians in the current political situation.

Boyd vigorously said: We are firmly committed to resolving all issues pertaining to the United States as long as this does not mean we will lower the flag of dignity, because Panama, above all, must continue to be a free and independent country that is respected by the entire world.

During his speech, the senior diplomat praised the virtues of his running mates, Carlos Duque and Ramon Sieiro:

[Begin Boyd recording] We are the product of an amalgation of forces that, as represented by Sieiro, is fully aware of the peasants' problems and what is required to ensure greater and better agricultural production and to guarantee the export of produce that in the past was neither very coveted nor very desired by the United States and other countries that imported our country's products.

In Mr Carlos Duque you have a man who has learned about Panama's economic, political, and social problems through struggle and effort, because he is a man who has learned how to obtain wisdom—as have other self-taught people of this country; who, without attaining a university degree, has been receptive to the aspirations and will of Panamanians to the extent that we can say today that he knows more than anyone who has graduated from a renowned university. [end recording]

Speaking on behalf of COLINA, Aquilino Boyd insisted that Panama could reach prudent accords with the United States as long as that country stops its economic aggression against Panama:

[Begin Boyd recording] That is just what Panama needs to tackle the economic problems that we have been confronting, especially since this bitter crisis started in 1986 and worsened in 1987, when bad Panamanians joined the U.S. people to prompt President Reagan—in a shameful and ridiculous attitude—to invoke war powers against a fraternal country such as the Republic of Panama.

We are firmly determined to resolve all issues pertaining to our relations with the United States as long as this never means we will lower the flag of dignity, because Panama [applause] above all, wishes to continue being a free, independent, and sovereign country that is respected by all nations.

If we now say we are the voters' best choice, it is because we feel capable of negotiating with all countries, especially the United States, when there are better conditions for the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Later, as he answered questions from workers and leaders on behalf of COLINA, Boyd said: We know the people's most pressing problem now is unemployment and that we must tackle this with courage and imagination and, finally, adopt the toughest decision to achieve new and secure formulas to ease the situation. Boyd described Herrera Province residents as the Republic's most hardworking people. He insisted that after 7 May the government will give priority attention to health problems that are affecting certain regions of the country.

The three COLINA hopefuls, together with a large group of COLINA advisers, later met with all of Herrera Province's COLINA candidates to develop strategies for the upcoming 7 May elections.

The INTEL clubhouse was filled to capacity by workers from the Public Works and Health Ministries, the education sector, INTEL, delegations representing peasants and laborers, and some sympathizers who spontaneously expressed their unrestricted support for the top leaders under a single slogan: COLINA, yes; colony, no.

Chilean Opposition Journalist Denied Entry

PA2702223389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2113 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Panama City, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislator Guillermo Cochez reported today that Chilean journalist Genaro Arriagada, president of the Chilean opposition's Radio Cooperativa, was denied entry into Panama and was deported to Miami after being detained for 14 hours by Panamanian authorities. Arriagada, 42, arrived in this capital last night from Costa Rica on a Salvadoran TACA airlines flight, at the invitation of the Panamanian opposition's PDC, Cochez reported.

Panamanian authorities have not yet mentioned or confirmed the incident, while other sources claim they have no knowledge of it.

The denial of entrance to the Chilean opposition leader by the authorities coincides with the arrival in Panama today of a special OAS mission that will investigate the human rights situation in this country this week.

Cochez said: "It is odd that while the members of a special mission from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission entered through one door, Arriagada was being expelled through another."

The Chilean journalist is also a member of the National Committee of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party and former executive secretary of the "No Commando" campaign for the plebiscite held in his country last November.

Cochez said Arriagada was detained by members of the Panama Defense Forces at an unspecified military garrison and was deported 14 hours later on a commercial flight to Miami, where he is currently staying at a hotel.

Citing Arriagada, Cochez said he was not allowed to make any phone calls or go to the restroom, although he requested such things several times.

The Panamanian Government issued a communique last week warning all journalists they must be accredited as foreign correspondents in the country and must prove through documents "duly authenticated by the Panamanian consul in the respective country" that the media they represent exist.

Journalists Urge Government To Reopen Media
PA2402143089 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Ramon Francisco Castellanos, acting president of the Panamanian National Journalists Union [UNAPPA], has reported that the union has urged the government to reopen the closed media. Castellanos, who is also president of the Journalists Union, noted that UNAPPA approved two resolutions during a recent meeting. One resolution questioned the appointment of a U.S. citizen as the Panama Canal Commission's public relations officer, because that position should have been filled by a Panamanian citizen. The other resolution requested the immediate reopening of all the closed media.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Castellanos] ...to be able to reestablish certain civil liberties that have been partially restricted up to now. I say partially, because not all civil liberties have been restricted—only some. The intention is to have a free interplay of ideas within a democratic framework, but with total compliance with the media law. This was the principle approved by all the delegates that attended the meeting held in Aguadulce on Saturday.

[Reporter] Will the Journalists Union's resolution get a positive response from the government?

[Castellanos] The resolution was not issued by the Journalists Union. The union is one of UNAPPA's affiliates. The UNAPPA has decided to send the resolutions to the following government officials: the president, the Attorney General's Office, and the Government and Justice Ministry. The UNAPPA has even decided to send the resolution calling for the reopening of the closed media to the Defense Forces headquarters.

[Reporter] What has happened to the negotiations between the Journalists Union and the government for reopening the closed media?

[Castellanos] The last thing we heard—I believe it was you who interviewed the government and justice minister—was that the attorney general had to be briefed on this issue. We have not heard anything since then, and we do not know the attorney general's position on the issue. The issue is at a standstill. [end recording]

Media See 'Little Hope'
PA2502043189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Tomorrow will be the anniversary of the closing of the Panamanian newspaper LA PRENSA, and the journalists and owners of this and other media have little hope that they will be allowed to reopen, even though the 7 May elections are drawing near.

The dailies LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO, the weeklies QUIUBO and LA GACETA FINANCIERA, and the radio stations KW Continente, Mundial, and Radio Noticias were closed on different dates under various charges, one of which was "attacks against the state."

Owners and journalists of the closed media interviewed by ACAN-EFE pointed out that they have filed—thus far unsuccessfully—a number of appeals to accelerate legal proceedings and to reopen their media.

"We are looking into it" is the only response the authorities have given to LA PRENSA Director Winston Robles' many inquiries about his newspaper.

Robles said: "The investigations obviously are not being conducted very diligently."

The authorities are handling the case like a "hot potato." They are passing the buck and decline to comment on the closing of the media. Their standard answer is that all cases are "under investigation."

Several progovernment politicians and high-ranking officials questioned by ACAN-EFE avoided the subject while others simply pointed out that the solution to the matter "is not within their purview."

Wilfredo Jimenez, leader of the National Journalists Association, said that a high-ranking government official recently promised to speed up the proceedings to reopen the closed media but that nothing positive has resulted from his efforts.

Government spokesmen have said privately that "the loss in international esteem by closing these media" is less damaging than the consequences of reopening them.

By this they are referring to the very active role these media, and particularly LA PRENSA, played until their closing in the campaign to force General Manuel Antonio Noriega to resign as chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

The closing of LA PRENSA left the opposition without a daily newspaper. However, it continues to have access to two television stations—Circuito RPC Television and Telemetro Television—and to independent radio stations that regularly cover opposition activities.

The owners of LA PRENSA said that since its closing they have not had access to the newspaper's delicate computerized newswriting and printing system.

The same situation is faced by the other newspapers and stations, some of whose buildings are under police guard.

The equipment and furniture of Panavision, the television station owned by ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle, have been sold, and the station's employees have received no labor benefits whatsoever.

According to the Journalists Association, the closing has resulted in losses to these media of over $3 million and has caused "insecurity and distress" to over 2,000 heads of household, of whom 58 are newsmen.

The association also claims that the 7 May presidential elections "cannot possibly be honest and democratic if these media remain closed."

To mark the anniversary of LA PRENSA's closing, the association has scheduled a meeting at which several speakers will denounce the "lack of freedom of speech."

The newspaper has asked government officials and presidential candidates to participate.

The opposition, which insists that these media should be reopened as a "gesture of goodwill" on the part of the government, has continued to use the closings as one of the main themes in its election campaign.

Report on Opposition Access to Media
PA2402224789

[Editorial Report] Since the official inauguration of the Panamanian election campaign on 8 February, Panamanian radio and television have been observed to broadcast an increased number of items on or reflecting the views of the Panamanian opposition. All opposition newspapers—EL SIGLO, EXTRA, LA PRENSA, and QUIUBO—remain closed, however, and only proregime newspapers are currently being published.

Two Panama City television stations, Circuito RPC Television (Channel 4) and Telemetro Television (Channel 13), have been observed to carry frequent interviews with opposition leaders and reports on opposition activities during most of their hour-long prime time evening (2300-2400 GMT) newscasts.

Panama City Circuito RPC Television has been observed to carry opposition-related material during one-third or more of its 1-hour noon (1700 GMT) newscast. On 21 February, this station was observed carrying a half-hour program called "The Voice of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance" hosted by opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC) legislator Guillermo Cochez. PDC leader Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate on the opposition slate for the 7 May elections, was also featured on this show. During this broadcast, Cochez announced that the program will be carried at 1330-1400 and 2330-2400 GMT Monday through Friday.

A slight increase in opposition-related material is also evident in the newscasts carried by Panama City Cadena Exitosa, which was closed by the government from 9 February through 25 September 1988. The station's owner, Aris de Icaza, recently returned to Panama from exile and resumed his "Take Note" commentary at 1200 GMT on 20 February. In this commentary, De Icaza expressed happiness at his return "after staying out of Panama against my will" and pledged to "resume the struggle" based on his steadfast principles, "which are truth, objectivity, and the courage to keep them alive to the end despite all difficulties."

Two other Panama City radio stations, La Voz de Panama and Radio Guadalupe, have also been observed recently to feature opposition-related material. La Voz de Panama began broadcasting on 15 February a noon commentary program, "Heightening Awareness." PDC Legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox hosts this program, which is carried at 1700-1730 GMT. For its part, since 17 February Radio Guadalupe has been carrying the "Today Radio Newscast" at 1300-1400 GMT. This program is hosted by Legislator Mario J. de Obaldia, who belongs to the pro-opposition faction of the Authentic Panamenist Party. Both of these programs were regular features on Panama City Radio Mundial until the station was closed by the government in February 1988.

Editorial Accuses U.S. of Rights Violations
PA2402195189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States Violates Human Rights"]

[Text] The U.S. policy of violating human rights in Panama has increased during the last year.

The United States' coercive actions in the political, diplomatic, and consular fields, especially those regarding the illegal withholding of funds belonging to the Panamanian state—an action that directly affected Panamanian citizens, particularly the masses, who are needy, and the middle class—have no precedent in contemporary relations of signatory countries of the UN Charter.

These punitive measures—which violate international legal and moral codes—that the U.S. Government has taken directly affected Panamanians' standard of living. Unemployment increased and that had negative effects on social security policies and the health system.

Yet, there is more.

Another more drastic measure stands out in the continuing U.S. aggression against our nation, its government, and people. The so-called Southern Command, the existence of which is not authorized by any treaty, is the instrument the United States has used to try to destabilize and terrorize Panamanian institutions.

The Panama Defense Forces' Public Security Commission of the Joint Committee issued an official document to the local and foreign media, stating with specific examples the long list of human rights violations against humble Panamanians, including Panamanians who work at the military bases under the jurisdiction of the so-called Southern Command.

In sum, the main source of human, social, civil, and economic rights violations in Panama resides in the policy that—as was shown with the "silver roll and the gold roll" [reference to former practice of paying U.S. employees in gold and Panamanians in silver]—the United States has implemented. The U.S. Government supported persecuting Panamanian regimes before 1968, and now it is cynically conducting "psychological warfare" against Panama through the Southern Command.

Panamanians are very aware of the fact that the only ones responsible for the country's economic crisis are the U.S. authorities, who in their determination to impose their will on the Panamanian Government have criminally stepped on human rights, which are so dear to humanity.

Electoral Tribunal Denies Obstructing Opposition

PA2402160689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Statement by Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez in Panama City on 20 February—recorded]

[Text] I believe the Electoral Tribunal has been fair enough and has opened its doors completely. We have been working on Saturdays and Sundays. We have been assisting all political parties equally. I understand that as of yesterday some nominations presented by the Authentic Liberal Party were still being examined and others were pending.

We have extended the period for filing nominations and have allowed them to be filed on Saturdays and Sundays. Thus, I do not understand the complaints that are being made by opposition political parties. We are publishing the lists of candidates for legislators, councilmen, and corregimiento representatives, as well as their respective alternates. We have already announced the alliances that have been established, as well as the three presidential tickets. Therfore, I do not understand the complaints.

The political parties already are making use of the broadcast time granted them by the electoral code on radio and television stations. You will notice that the ones who are speaking in the media are the opposition candidates.

Legislator Reports Voter List Irregularities

PA2402133489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Statement by Christian Democratic Party legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The evidence is here on my desk that the Electoral Tribunal is already responsible for a number of irregularities. These irregularities are quite evident on voters lists.

Here at the Bella Vista Community Board, a group of volunteers has been involved in a project that lasted until dawn. We can prove that the names of a number of people who appeared on a preliminary voters list that the Electoral Tribunal gave us are no longer on the final voters list. Thus, they do not know where they are supposed to cast their votes.

As you can see, some people are on this preliminary list but are not on the final list. This column shows the people who are not listed at all. Where are these people listed? When we check these cases, we find out that many are listed as living outside the city.

If the citizens fail to check or find out on time where each one must vote—at which polling place—they will face the unpleasant surprise that their names do not appear on the voters lists in the places where they have voted before. On election day they would have to find out where they are listed, and they will just give up, which is what the government wants. The government wants citizens not to vote, because the government knows it will lose this election if everyone is allowed to vote.

More on Lists, Media Closures

PA2402140789 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 11

[Text] Carlos Arellano Lennox, vice president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has told MEDIODIA that "the elections must not be delayed, and I hope they will solve the problems of the past few months."

Arellano, who hopes to be reelected to the Legislative Assembly, insisted that he personally does not want to use the word fraud, but "there are indeed a number of irregularities in the election process, such as the case of citizens whose names are not on the voters lists at the polling places where they have voted in the past."

As an example, he noted that some people who used to vote at the La Salle School are now on the voters list of the America School. Arellano pointed out that "I see no reason why the Electoral Tribunal moved these voters."

Asked if he knows anything about a possible authorization allowing the media that were closed by the public prosecutor and that are under investigation to reopen, he said: "We have no information about their reopening."

Civic Crusade Urges Attendance at March

PA2402143889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Statement by Jose Raul Mulino, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives and Civic Crusade member; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The 2 March opposition march for free elections and respect for human rights should be attended by all Panamanians who are aware of our rights and duties as citizens. The march will permit us to exercise our constitutional right to hold a peaceful demonstration and meeting, a right that has been violated for so long. It is important that the Panamanian people attend this march to demand free elections, which will allow the country to achieve true and complete democracy. It is important for Panamanians to take advantage of this march, which will be attended by important international observers, to demand respect for our constitutional rights. We must demand before the entire world, represented by these observers, that we want free elections and an honest count of the votes cast by the majority of the Panamanian people.

Sosa Comments on Noriega, Planned Vote Fraud

PA2402223889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Washington, 22 Feb—Panamanian Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, who was dismissed by his government and is recognized by the United States, today told EFE that the White House has not changed its hard-line policy toward Panama and condemned what he said was the Panamanian regime's plan to commit fraud in the upcoming presidential elections.

The diplomat said that he has not yet met with Secretary of State James Baker and other top White House leaders to discuss what he describes as the "crisis" in his country, but he said he had met with other officials.

Sosa said that the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal treaties, by means of which the Panamanian people will assume control of that interoceanic waterway from the United States in the year 2000, are not in jeopardy.

However, he warned that General Manuel Antonio Noriega's remaining at the head of the Panama Defense Forces poses a threat to those accords.

U.S. authorities imposed drastic economic sanctions against Panama in March of last year to pressure Noriega into retirement, but he remains in power. Two indictments for drug trafficking were issued simultaneously in Florida against the Panamanian military man.

Sosa gave a news conference on the occasion of the anniversary of Noriega's firing by President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was in turn later dismissed by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly.

During the conference, Sosa pointed out that the "serious economic crisis" in the country is not the result of U.S. sanctions but is due to a lack of trust in the government headed by Manuel Solis Palma.

He asked the international community to pressure the Panamanian Government into allowing observers from international organizations to monitor the elections process before, during, and after the voting, for which, according to the diplomat, the opposition will "be more united than ever."

Ambassador Sosa, who remains loyal to ousted President Delvalle, who is recognized by Washington as the legitimate ruler of Panama, added during the news conference that there are currently no guarantees for free and honest elections in his country. He claimed that the opposition is currently being harassed.

Sosa demanded the release of political prisoners, the return of all exiles, and full guarantees that the elections will be "more or less free."

He also attributed the absence in the streets of the Civic Crusade, a movement made up of numerous opposition groups in Panama, to fear instilled by Noriega.

Panamanian Alberto M. Conte, leader of a group that defends human rights in his country who has taken refuge in Miami, was also present at the conference. He said that numerous Cuban soldiers who are leaving Angola will go to Panama to help Noriega.

Echevers Denies Charges of Gunrunning

PA2402223589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1707 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Panamanian businessman Jose Manuel Echevers, who has links with the opposition, denied involvement in an alleged gunrunning operation to smuggle arms into Panama from Costa Rica. These charges were made some 15 days ago.

Echevers, who became a Costa Rican citizen, told the press that the discovery of three small bundles of weapons in two of his houses is part of a plan to discredit him. Echevers, who is being questioned along with a Nicaraguan and two Costa Ricans, admitted that he belonged to FLASH [the Spadafora Hugo Armed Liberation Front—Frente de Liberacion Armada Spadafora Hugo], which, he said, was created in Panama to investigate Hugo Spadafora's assassination.

The alleged gunrunner said he is an investor who wants to live in peace and says he cannot not live in his native country for ideological reasons.

The Costa Rican Attorney General's Office is investigating Echevers, Nicaraguan Edward Hudson, and Costa Ricans Julio Antonio and Eduardo Esquivel for activities related to illegal weapons possession. Jose Echevers said the reason behind all this is to send him back to Panama where, according to him, his political opponents will try to harm him.

According to police reports, Jose Manuel Echevers admitted that he was a close friend of Spadafora and of deposed Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle. In late 1988, Echevers' Costa Rican coffee mill located near the Panamanian border was bombed. Costa Rican police authorities said the perpetrators were members of the Panamanian military.

ADOC's Ford Calls for Dialogue With FDP

PA2302181989 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Panama's Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] today again called on the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to participate in a dialogue. ADOC made this call through its second vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford.

Guillermo Ford said this afternoon that the Panamanian opposition is only seeking the support of the Panamanian people, and that on 7 May it will exercise the people's will. Ford made these statements at the weekly meeting of the Panama Kiwanis Club, during which he participated as a special guest and discussed the subject of why Panamanians should vote.

Ford said the opposition has overcome and will continue to overcome all obstacles because it is sure of its triumph. We must peacefully and intelligently show that people want a change and that the only way people can make that change is by voting, Ford said. He added: Therefore, we must not waste our vote.

Regarding a dialogue with the FDP, Ford said that the opposition has been talking about the need to conduct such a dialogue since 1987.

[Begin Ford recording] The Civic Crusade and the opposition political parties will present clear and determining subjects as the minimum, essential topics of discussion to solve the Panamanian problem. If that dialogue takes place and if the opposition, which is closely linked to the Civic Crusade, agrees to participate in that dialogue, it will have to be a clear and straightforward dialogue. [end recording]

Finally, Ford reiterated that if a dialogue takes place it will have to be under certain conditions.

[Begin Ford recording] We will set the conditions for the dialogue; please do not invite us to go to FDP headquarters. You [General Noriega] can come to the civilian arena, because you and your general staff must understand—and I say this very respectfully—that you must be subordinate to civilian power. [end recording]

PDC President Explains Refusal To Meet Noriega

PA2402133089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1330 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Why did the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] presidential candidates not accept General Manuel Antonio Noriega's invitation to meet with him?

[Calderon] It is very simple. The invitation is one of Noriega's many tricks. He is the main obstacle to our country's democratization and to free, honest elections. Evidence of this is in front of our eyes. The media that were closed have not reopened because of Noriega; exiles have not been able to return to Panama because of Noriega; no one trusts the Electoral Tribunal because of Noriega; and commanders of military zones have begun warning bus owners not to take passengers to opposition rallies. This, too, is because of Noriega.

Noriega does not need us to tell him that all these things are a violation of human rights and a violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution. He does not need us to tell him that these things undermine democratic elections. What Noriega needs is to allow all these things to change. To do this, he needs to stop being a dictator.

Therefore, when he invited us to discuss with him the rules of democratic elections—those rules he has violated and continues to violate—the three ADOC candidates answered that we were willing to meet with him but to talk about the real problem, which is the dictatorial powers Noriega himself has assumed as the Panama Defense Forces commander.

Noriega wanted to be a referee between two opposing sides. Noriega wanted to tell both sides about the rules of the game, when in reality he is the real reason we do not have a fair game. [passage omitted]

PPA Protests Party's Use of Banner

PA2402160389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 pp 1, B-11

[Letter from the Authentic Panamenist Party to Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez; issued in Panama City on 22 February]

[Text]Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez
President of the Electoral Tribunal
Madam President:

It is with great concern that the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] has observed during the past few days the offensive actions of the Authentic Liberal Party, which has used the photograph of [former Panamanian President] Arnulfo Arias Madrid on their banners, thus violating electoral rules that state that political parties' symbols should be registered at the Electoral Tribunal.

The Authentic Liberal Party's conduct, besides being a violation of the law, insults the Panamanian people's intelligence by attempting to deceive them into believing the PLA represents the Arnulfist forces. It is well known throughout the country that PPA members have been harassed by the Authentic Liberal Party which, using members of the infamous "Liberal War Footing," persecuted, beaten, insulted, humiliated, and murdered members of our glorious party. The Authentic Liberal Party also devised the 1964 fraud that disregarded the will of people who—from one end of the country to the other—had elected the PPA's founder and leader as president.

Their maneuvers during and after the 1968 election to once again deceive the majority of Panamanian people, who had for the fourth time elected their top leader as president of the Republic, are well known to everyone.

This shameful action by the Authentic Liberal Party is yet another manifestation of the unscrupulous attitude with which they are attempting to deceive and use the PPA's bases to attain power. While Arnulfo Arias Madrid was alive they used politics' lowest, dirtiest, and vilest tricks to prevent our founding leader from attaining the Presidency. They also participated in the 1951 and 1968 coups.

We expect the Electoral Tribunal will punish the perpetrators of such unpardonable and irresponsible behavior with due severity.
Attentively,
Authentic Panamenist Party
David Arce Merel, general secretary

Business Leader Foresees 'Deterioration'

PA2502014889 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 6

[Text] Alfredo Maduro, president of the Panama Chamber of Commerce, has expressed the opinion that the country's economic recovery, at best, "could take 7 years."

Maduro said that "the Panamanian economy has shrunken considerably; GNP in 1988 declined by 30 percent."

The business leader said that an economic recovery in the country depends on a solution to the political problem that Panama has been experiencing for the past 21 months.

Maduro said that unless the present political crisis is overcome, there will be a marked deterioration and the present economic situation will worsen.

Maduro said that trust is the basic element needed to reactivate the economy.

He also asked the authorities to open the Chamber of Commerce offices, which have been closed by the Attorney General's Office for over a year.

Amsterdam-Bound Marijuana Seized; Arrests

PA2402122789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 pp 28, 29

[Report by correspondent Luis T. Harris]

[Summary] Colon City—The Interpol, together with Atlantic area Special Antidrug Trafficking Forces, yesterday confiscated 121 30-pound cases of marijuana at the Mundo de Comercio, S.A. business in the France Field Free Zone. The marijuana was hidden among industrial boots and gloves inside the warehouse.

The drug had been shipped from Cali, Colombia by Power Marketing, Ltd. and was consigned to Mundo de Comercio, S.A., Free Zone, in transit to Amsterdam. It was scheduled to be shipped on 24 February.

After an investigation, George Parker Brown, a Panamanian; Lawrence d'Acosta Boden, a Nicaraguan; and Mundo de Comercio S.A. Manager Jorge Jesus Cardenas Pinzon, a Panamanian, were arrested.

George Parker Brown and D'Acosta Boden are partners in the Caribbean Cargo Company of Panama. All are being held by the General Attorney's Office.

Argentina

Alfonsin To Visit U.S., Greece, Algeria

PY2802030089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1734 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin will travel to Greece, Algeria, and the United States by the end of March. This will be his last trip abroad before the presidential elections on 14 May.

According to sources from the diplomatic sector and from the presidential protocol office, preliminary arrangements are already under way for this tour, which will last approximately 1 week. The final details, however, still have to be "approved" by President Alfonsin.

It has been reported that Alfonsin wants to include Greece, Algeria, and the United States in the same tour. Alfonsin had originally planned to visit Greece and Algeria in the second half of April, and the United States in late March.

On 30-31 March, Alfonsin plans to attend a meeting on the foreign debt in Atlanta. This meeting, which will be sponsored by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, will also be attended by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Gerald Ford, among other personalities.

In principle, Alfonsin is scheduled to depart for Atlanta on 28 March, with his return to Buenos Aires scheduled for 1 April. But the date of his return is subject to a meeting that Alfonsin may hold with George Bush in Washington.

It has been learned that Alfonsin may move up his departure to 23 March to attend a scheduled Group of Six summit in Athens, Greece. The Group of Six is made up of Argentina, India, Sweden, Mexico, Tanzania, and Greece.

If it is established that the Group of Six will meet on this date, Alfonsin will leave for Greece on 23 March. From there he will go to Algeria, where an agreement on cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy may be signed.

From Algeria, Alfonsin will head for the United States to attend the foreign debt talks sponsored by Carter.

Vice President Meets Japan's Uno 26 Feb

OW2702023289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno on Sunday pledged to make every effort to step up relations with Argentina and other Latin American countries, Japanese officials said.

Uno made the remark when he met Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez at the Foreign Ministry's Iikura Guesthouse, the officials said.

Martinez, who came to Japan to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral, asked Japan to cooperate with Argentina to develop transportation routes along the Argentine Pacific coast.

He told Uno that the transportation project would facilitate closer trade relations between the two countries.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials quoted Martinez as saying that Argentina is committed to repaying its foreign debt, estimated at 60 billion dollars as of the end of last year.

Uno replied that Japan would promote economic cooperation with Argentina, noting that Japan itself achieved its present prosperity partly as a result of foreign aid in the past.

Martinez handed over to Uno personal letters from President Raul Alfonsin addressed to Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

He offered an invitation from the Argentine Government for the emperor, Takeshita and Uno to visit Argentina, the officials said.

Spanish Navy Commander Arrives on Visit

PY2702155389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2010 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (TELAM)—Admiral Fernando Nardiz Vial, chief of the Spanish Navy General Staff, arrived at the Ezeiza International airport this afternoon. He was welcomed by his Argentine counterpart Admiral Ramon Arosa. [passage omitted]

Nardiz has said: "Adm Arosa and I are convinced that our two Navies must cooperate. I believe we have already started to do so in the Antarctic, and by holding joint maneuvers and operations," he said.

Regarding the situation in the South Atlantic, Nardiz said: "I do not believe there is a conflict in the region. The dispute is merely a result of a generalized confrontation which, as we know well, does not suit either of the involved countries."

Adm Nardiz Vial will stay in Argentina until 4 March.

* Weekly Unveils Secret Military Document

33480104d Buenos Aires EL PERIODISTA in Spanish 19 Jan 89 pp 10-13, 26 Jan 89 pp 16-18

[Article by Luis Bilbao]

[19 Jan 89 pp 10-13]

[Text] In late August of last year, the general staffs of the Argentine and Bolivian Armies held the 14th Bilateral Intelligence Conference in Buenos Aires. If the word intelligence has any meaning, one might assume that the

military officials of the Plata and the altiplano, who are institutionally subordinate to constitutional, civilian presidents in countries that are facing extremely serious economic and social problems, held this meeting in order to deal with the results of their investigations in search of solutions to the difficulties that plague their nations.

Wrong. This assumption is wrong, either because words are really meaningless, or because, given that these are Latin American military officers, intelligence can only be an abstract noun that is impossible to convert into concrete actions aimed at promoting economic development and freedom in their countries, and can only be used in accordance with a doctrine that was prefabricated at other latitudes, the supposedly forgotten Doctrine of National Security.

Completely out of touch with the socioeconomic reality of Argentina and Bolivia, the 14th Bilateral Intelligence Conference revolved around a longstanding obsession: "The Soviet expansionist project." The military officials' point of departure, in the form of a long document that is marked secret on the top and bottom of every single page, cover to cover, was the "East-West bipolar confrontation." According to this view, "the MCI (which in the often whimsical jargon of the military stands for the International Communist Movement) is developing a strategy that encompasses various procedures and methods that are adapted to international reality," from which "it can be concluded that the MCI offensive constitutes a veritable war that is being waged on all fronts."

One might respond that these are well-known concepts that do not justify the effort to hold bilateral conferences, much less on the subject of intelligence. Crass error. Because if the concepts are old hat, the overall context is new. "In the South American countries," says the document that was circulated at the meeting, "the subversive situation of the last few years has made itself known."

But only a superficial consideration would succumb to the deceit contained in the phrase "limited actions." There is one factor that alters the results. And presumably General Francisco Gassino, who at the time was in charge of the 2d Command (Intelligence) of the Army General Staff, must have congratulated the theoretician who brought him the discovery that would be the centerpiece of the August conference: "Subversion in the region is becoming increasingly significant as democratization advances."

This discovery warrants a promotion. In fact, out of sheer modesty, the authors explain that not only does democracy feed subversion, but subversion "has also increased because of ties with the USSR and Cuba on the diplomatic, economic, technological, cultural, and informational fronts." Human to the end, the scholars nevertheless do not hide their joy at another spectacular discovery: "The DDTT's—that is, terrorist criminals—are still being trained in Nicaragua and Cuba."

Military intelligence's penetration into the depths of the current situation does not end there. Incorporating a theory that has been launched at other latitudes as well, the intelligence chiefs explain that "the relationship between drugs and subversion, which generates narcoterrorism, has become part of the East-West confrontation, with a real impact on the national-international security of the West." Hence the conclusion that "narcoterrorism now constitutes a means of Revolutionary War." According to this interpretation of reality, "the MCI uses narcoterrorism as a socio-ideological procedure for provoking social imbalances, eroding community morale, and corrupting and disintegrating Western society, as part of the strategic objective of promoting the new Marxist order."

If the interpretation seems senseless, the conclusion, in contrast, has a translucent logic: "Because of the above considerations," says the document, "narcoterrorism is becoming in some countries a hypothetical conflict for the national armies, while the Soviets regard it as a strategic weapon for their purposes." To face such a perfidious enemy, explains the document, in addition to adopting a series of legal and practical measures, an "institutional political-juridical-military action" is imperative. And as if this convoluted reasoning left any room for doubt, the men in uniform reveal their true thinking: "The intervention of the armed forces in this context has been considered necessary, given that the increase in drug trafficking surpasses individual action."

World Besieged

To reach that conclusion, however, the authors traveled a long road. Because Argentina and Bolivia are not the only besieged countries. "Within the East-West bipolar confrontation, for the USSR the stage of peaceful coexistence primarily means avoiding open and conventional armed action. As a substitute, the Soviets have come up with the notion of the 'war of peace,' which is actually none other than the continuation of the war by other means. According to this theory, the terrorist method is a key element in the destabilization of Western systems of government."

After a detailed examination of the BBDDTT's (bands of terrorist criminals) throughout the world, the document explains that "it is not surprising, then, to find in the complex network of international terrorism a Bulgarian landing strip, a Czech arsenal, a Cuban or East German training field, or a supply depot in France." The 2d Command's evaluation contends that "at present, international terrorists have taken all of Europe as a privileged theater for their operations. This trend is of particular significance in Spain and France." Although at the beginning of its tour through the world of the BBDDTT's the document explains that these bands "had the surreptitious approval of the USSR, and in the majority of cases the necessary logistical support for

their operations (facilitating capital, false documentation, training, weapons, etc.)," the authors warn that "it would be reductionist and incomplete" to assert that "the USSR is the only controller of all terrorist activities throughout the world."

After spending the past few years sagely reading the dust jackets of books written by the Italian Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci, now the military officers profess pious horror at Manicheanism. That is why they explain that "although the USSR is intervening directly or indirectly in many terrorist activities worldwide, there are also many subversive-terrorist operations that have little to do with Moscow, and that in some cases are opposed to Soviet interests." This clarification thus gives rise to another theoretical finding, and the authors invite their presumed readers to "delve into the concept of 'strategic convergence,' which will allow us to visualize the diversity of nuances involved in the terrorist-subversive phenomenon, as it occurs on the international scene."

It is worth following the thread of this reasoning carefully: From the BBDDTT's the document subtly moves to the "subversive-terrorist phenomenon." And the "strategic convergence" is then further broken down into "total or first-degree" and "partial or second-degree." The document goes on: "In the first category are all those movements that not only have common objectives, but also carry out real coordination and cooperation with regard to the armaments and tactics employed, troops deployed, sources of financing for operations, etc. This is the case with the groups that are directly or indirectly dependent on Communist Parties throughout the world, and those that in one way or another pay obeisance to the directives issued from the USSR. In the second category," continues the report, "are those that are indirectly involved in Soviet strategy. Generally they are motivated by demands for independence or ethnic or religious freedom."

The analytical effort is not in vain. Although the document is apparently referring to the BBDDTT's, without any transition it asserts that "one of the principal strategic objectives of the USSR is to achieve agreements with the Western countries for the purpose of dividing Europe from the United States and exerting pressure for its Finlandization." For this reason, it explains, "the USSR has undertaken a process that has been labeled denuclearization. Under this plan, London and Paris appear as 'the greatest obstacles to peace.' It is in these countries where the environmental, pacifist, and antinuclear movements are particularly active and increasingly influential. These movements," emphasizes the analysis, "are a key element in the Soviet psychological offensive. It is a matter of projecting to the world an image of the USSR as a state whose sole ambition is peace, and reviving the nuclear fear. It is in this context that the policy of openness and transparency (glasnost) currently being implemented by Mikhail Gorbachev should be viewed."

The conclusion may not be worthy of Gramsci's dialectic, but at any rate it is useful for the chief of the 2d Command: If you are a bomb thrower, you are in first-degree strategic convergence with the Soviet Union; on the other hand, if you are against any kind of bombs, you are in second-degree convergence. If you have reached the conclusion that the economic crisis requires a structural change, first-degree; but if you merely propose that no more forests be destroyed and that air and river pollution cease, second-degree. As chief of intelligence, Gen Gassino did not concern himself with setting the penalties for the different gradations of "strategic convergence." Maybe that is one of the functions of the chief of staff. Fortunately, the classification does not say what degree of convergence corresponds to those who promote trade and scientific and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union and its satellites. Otherwise, the very commander in chief of the Army, that is, President Raul Alfonsin, would fall into the extremely fine analytical net of the 14th Bilateral Intelligence Conference.

Latin America: Theater of Operations Thomas Mann suspected that "man cannot make any statement of a general nature without betraying himself entirely." The authors of the document certainly did not imagine how revealing words can be when they wrote, referring to the geography of the BBDDTT's in Africa, that the Republic of South Africa "is, thanks to the support of the United States, the last bastion of the West." With a mere dozen words, the document presented at the conference implies that Western values are represented in a country where the most denigrating form of racial discrimination imaginable prevails, where violence and the lack of individual guarantees reign. This "bastion of the West" is just that, moreover, because of the backing of the United States. The latter country, in defense of an "invaluable strategic position that allows the domination of the maritime routes along which much of the petroleum consumed by the West is shipped," not only props up the regime of apartheid in South Africa, but in 1982, supported Great Britain against the Argentine military forces that had landed on the Malvinas Islands. Finally, but most importantly, the document considers as a point of support and a strategic ally in the defense of the West a country with which the Argentine Government has broken off diplomatic relations.

The reasoning of the 2d Command, however, comes into full play when it discusses the "evolution of the subversive-Marxist situation" in Latin America. The document begins methodically with Central America, where the conflict "has become one of the most dangerous focal points and a theater of operations in the Revolutionary War, East-West confrontation. Although the evolution of the situation appears to be a regional phenomenon," notes the report, "it should be regarded as having worldwide consequences, with repercussions throughout the continent."

The subtle escalation in the scope of enemy forces takes one step further here. Among the forces involved in the Central American conflict are "transnational, party-dominated, ideological currents of the world (social

democracy, Christian democracy, etc.)." The wording is familiar: "Party domination" and the deleterious action of "social democracy" are terms that habitually crop up in certain propaganda that is always repeated in campaigns designed to prepare public opinion just before a coup attempt.

Now with more ammunition in the magazine, the analysis continues: "South America is certainly the part of the hemisphere that is most severely affected by foreign-directed subversion. A common denominator in all countries is the struggle against the BBDDTT's, which are supported with training, arms, and financing by the MCI from bases located outside the area (Libya, Nicaragua, Cuba)."

Nothing lies outside the range of this omniscient and omnipresent enemy. "The MCI's objective of Marxist-Leninist infiltration in South America is a fact in the armed forces, in the church, in worker and student organizations, etc. All social spheres are part of the subversives' plans."

After presenting a detailed, country-by-country review, the document reaches conclusions that are worth reproducing: "At this time, the countries most severely disturbed by terrorist subversion in South America are Colombia and Peru. In general, in the other countries in the area, subversion is not significantly apparent in the military sphere, or in any other. With the return to democracy, they are in the process of restructuring their cadres. On the other hand," the document goes on, "in South American countries, the subversive situation in the last few years has made itself known through limited actions and the infiltration of political, labor, religious, student, and journalistic organizations. For this purpose, agents have been used to infiltrate and form secret cells in these organizations, where they surreptitiously develop their pseudopolitical, subversive actions. Recently it has been revealed that regional terrorist movements have close ties to international ones, and to worldwide drug trafficking rings as well, all of which constitutes narcoterrorism, under the leadership of the MCI. For subversive-political actions, the MCI uses front organizations that operate in Latin America in the stead of the CPSU, and that encompass all spheres, trade unions, religion, student groups, etc."

The analysis goes on to say, "Marxism-Leninism has its expression in South America through the local Communist Parties. In the medium term, the majority of these parties can be expected to choose the path of violence or insurrection when they cannot gain access to power by electoral means."

But the discoveries do not end there: "In Latin America, Maoism still prevails in the Peruvian group Shining Path, and since 1980 it has been developing a policy of insurrection based on the predominance of the countryside over the city. This terrorist group is disconnected from Communist China; it receives support from the Soviet Communists." And the menu is complete with an unexpected condiment: "Eurocommunism has become a presence on the subcontinent since the fall of Communism in Chile. It has tried to penetrate political groups and the religious sector, with the support of a vast editorial campaign that has a leftist but non-Leninist appearance and is attractive to the potential electoral board. In addition, Liberation Theology and the Humanist Parties are also players in this game."

The conclusion no longer leaves room for astonishment: "The Cuban intelligence services, supported by the USSR, are carrying out operations to consolidate the objectives of Castro's foreign policy, which consist of propping up the Sandinist government in Nicaragua. On the other hand, the Cuban intelligence services are threatening the operational security of the U.S. forces in the Americas. In short, the Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan triangle is developing the maximum capacity for exporting insurgent criminality to Latin America."

Throughout the document there is not a single reflection, a single thought that is grounded in the reality of Argentina, Bolivia, or Latin America. Only slogans. These slogans are unequivocally extremist in nature and, ironically enough, subversive. For there is an irreconcilable contradiction between the political strategy that can be discerned in the analysis described here and the continuity of constitutional governments.

[26 Jan 89, pp 16-18]

[Text] What place does "intelligence" (that is, the search for, selection, and processing of information) have in the determination of a policy for the Army General Staff (EMGE)?

In light of the secret document that was approved last August by the 14th Bilateral Intelligence Conference of the Argentine and Bolivian Armies, the question sounds an alarm. Because if there is a correspondence between the conclusions reached by the EMGE and its operative decisions, the Army is on a collision course.

In the chapter devoted to the "analysis of the national subversive situation," the report departs from a premise that reappears constantly throughout its 98 pages: "In view of the legal advantages obtained through the new constitutional process, the 1987-88 period was a time of settling in, infiltrating, and political structuring for the subversive organizations of the International Communist Movement (MCI). They accomplished this through internal struggles and the formation of groups and front organizations that operate at various levels, and thus have managed to achieve a considerable degree of representation and real power."

The tinted glass through which the "new constitutional process" is viewed is complemented by the ideological viewpoint of the authors: "The MCI, directed from Moscow in the Americas through Cuba, is aimed at the

objective of universal domination. To achieve this, it employs the Revolutionary War (GR) and its strategy indirectly, developing a great indirect strategic maneuver (political-economic-social route) and a growing direct maneuver (armed struggle)."

Although the view that one has from this standpoint is arbitrary for an analysis of current Argentine society, it is, on the other hand, consistent with the premises put forth. It fully satisfies the expectations of the authors and the officers who will use it as a basis for their work: "The MCI continues to operate in the Argentine Republic primarily through its three most obvious expressions: The Bands of Terrorist Criminals, the Montoneros and the Revolutionary Army of the People, the Political-Marxist Organizations (OPM), and the Organizations of Solidarity (OOSS), which act jointly or in turn to obtain better yields in reaching their objectives."

The amalgam of "Bands of Terrorist Criminals" and "Organizations of Solidarity" is not a theoretical abstraction. The MCI is presumed to have a real and operative existence, even though no serious analyst of the national and international political situation would resort to such a simplification. For the EMGE, on the other hand, the MCI's "overall strategic attitude is defensive, while its operational and tactical strategic attitude is offensive."

The obscurity of the concept dissipates in the conclusions reached by the intelligence men: "The degree of activity of the groups that comprise the spectrum has not changed the order of priority that is usually shown (OOSS, OPM, and BBDDTT), but it should be noted that the number of actions detected normally depends on how overt the group's operations are."

In other words, the great universal brain in Moscow that is ordering subversive actions on every inch of the planet has decided to place human rights organizations in the vanguard in Argentina, relegating political organizations to the back seat and leaving the armed organizations to crouch in the background. Therefore it is no surprise that the document indiscriminately calls the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo either MPM or MT (Terrorist Mothers).

One Against All

Once it gets going, this logic is crushing. And reality accommodates it, feeding it with a ceaseless continuum: "The statistical data on the targets of attack reveal the priority given to the armed forces, as they are considered the fundamental obstacle on the road to power. The smear campaign against the military is designed to neutralize it in order to minimize its ability to respond. Then it will be possible to destroy the armed forces and remove them as an obstacle."

From this point of view, there is no reason for anyone to criticize the past and present of the armed forces, unless one has received an order from the MCI. The opinion polls suggesting that 67 percent of the population thinks the prosecution of military officials for human rights violations should continue would thus be proof that the professionals who conducted them are also taking orders from the MCI, or worse yet, would confirm that two-thirds of the population is responding to the perverse communist plans cooked up in Moscow.

The following paragraph is more eloquent: "In second place are the attacks against institutions that make up the National Government, which have an evident political scope, in the left's need to distance itself from them for electoral purposes." Stated more clearly: The BBDDTT's, the OPM's, and the OOSS's do not criticize the government for valid reasons, but just as a political tactic. Or, what amounts to the same thing, the critics and the criticized have something in common. That impression is reinforced when one reads the author's assessment of the relationship of the rest of the political spectrum in the military world: "Both the government and the majority political sectors are engaged in a delicate balance with respect to the armed forces," says the document.

War Not Over

It is difficult to tell from the report delivered to the 14th Bilateral Intelligence Conference whether the distorting prism through which the authors see reality has caused them to reach these conclusions, or whether the conclusions themselves, conceived as dogma, actually required them to alter the facts to support them. In either case, the fact is that the detailed information provided in the document raises doubts about the treatment that will be given to political forces that are operating legitimately and are involved in the functioning of the current constitutional regime.

For the present, the minute details on activities of political and social organizations suggest infiltration by military intelligence, in clear violation of the Constitution and repeated official statements, according to which the Doctrine of National Security is a thing of the past. Apparently, those responsible for these tasks are counting on "the delicate balance" in which they have placed the authorities to enable them to engage in such activities without fear that the administration, Congress, or the judiciary will punish them for it. They may also be relying on the possibility that, in view of the widespread rejection of the Montonero leaders and the estimate that the forces of the United Left (IU) will obtain a mere fraction of the vote in the elections, the political leaders will decide it is a good idea to remain silent in the face of the threat perceived in this "intelligence" effort.

The document classifies only the Montoneros of the Revolutionary Workers Party-People's Revolutionary Army (PRT-ERP) as BBDDTT's. It claims that both still intend to carry out "revolutionary war," although it admits that for the time being "the top echelons of leadership—of the Montoneros—are still oriented

toward political action and legalization, in an effort to join the Justicialist Party (PJ)." And with regard to the PRT, it concludes that "despite the creation of organizations that superficially have a clear populist tone, it is not very well accepted among the masses." Nevertheless, the report includes assertions that transfer the problem to other political forces, on the basis of imprecise or patently false data.

Thus, for example, it claims that "the infiltration of the PR (alluding to the Montoneros) in the PJ at the leadership level is important." Precisely because rigor and accuracy are basic conditions in a document of this type, this ambiguity appears to be deliberately intended to tar any PJ leader with the "terrorist" brush. On the same line, the document contends that "the formation of a Revolutionary Patriotic Movement" is under way, a fact that gives the authors "one more indication of the existence of coordination and/or support with South American BBDDTT's."

With regard to the PRT-ERP, the description of its forces appears to be too whimsical to be the product of ignorance or confusion. According to the document, "methodological differences" have led to the emergence of two factions within the same party, the "Nicaragua line" and the "MODEPA line." In the opinion of the Army intelligence team, "the following front organizations belong to the latter faction: the Anti-Imperialist Popular Democratic Movement (MODEPA), the All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), and the Popular Democratic Left (IDEPO)." To emphasize that the IDEPO is just "a front organization," the document argues that "in April 1987 the first issue of the Popular Democratic Left's publication was released. No further issues have been published."

The detail is that the latter two groups mentioned make up the Broad Liberation Front (FRAL), and in fact a member of the IDEPO, Nestor Vicente, is the presidential candidate of the United Left. Similarly, in expounding on the Montoneros, the document claims that it has been decided "to keep one sector of the BBDDTT, apparently a dissident one, inside the FRAL as the Proletariat for Victory Party." Thus, leaders and organizations described by the document as "terrorist criminals" have supposedly "infiltrated" the FRAL and the IU. Just as alleged armed organizations are lumped together with human rights organizations, the document makes the electoral coalition of the left, and even the Justicialist Party, appear to be mere "fronts" in which anyone could be a "terrorist." Naturally, they would then deserve the corresponding treatment.

As for the human rights organizations, the document devotes 18 pages to detailed descriptions of each one's activities. "The repercussions among the population, as well as the support garnered, were considerably less. Furthermore, little cooperation by the mass media in disseminating their positions was observed; this dissemination was left to those 'communicators' who were directly linked to the OOSS's." The conclusion is that "the actions of the OOSS's with respect to the receptivity of public opinion and their ability to mobilize people can be regarded as declining (...) The displacement that has been observed in the themes of the human rights organizations regarding social issues (common crime, police conduct, trade union matters, etc.) is tacit recognition of the saturation of public opinion with their arguments." Repeating the aforementioned method of lumping together different types of organizations, the report stresses that "joint actions have been detected involving the principal OOSS's—Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), Peronist Montonero Movement (MPM), APM [not further identified], Argentine League for Human Rights (LADH), Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ), and CFDDRP [not further identified]—and the PC [Communist Party], the Social Affirmation Movement (MAS), the political left in general, and the BBDDTT's." The document concludes, significantly, by striking the same key: "The Terrorist Mothers (MT) have decided to begin functioning as a means of gathering information on people 'suspected' of belonging to the military and security forces, material that they will surely share with the entire spectrum, within which similar initiatives have already been taken."

A reading of the document presented at the 14th Bilateral Conference, which was drafted on orders from the man who was then head of the 2nd Command (Intelligence) and is now the chief of the EMGE, Gen Francisco Gassino, leads to an inevitable conclusion: The armed forces remain fiercely attached to the Doctrine of National Security; their enemies wear civilian clothing and carry Argentine I.D. cards, and every citizen is under surveillance and on probation.

* Acuna Defines Three Main Army Factions

33480104c Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Jan 89 p 9

[Commentary by Carlos Manuel Acuna]

[Text] Apparently the new chief of staff of the Army, as the first measure in his administration, is preparing to call for an interlude, a kind of truce between the main direct protagonists in the crisis that is plaguing the Army. The objective is to be able to arrive at specific measures to be taken in the short term to overcome this crisis.

In this regard, it is not yet known whether General Gassino has specific deadlines and actions in mind. The most pessimistic observers, looking at the ingredients in the current situation, cannot overlook one negative factor: the fact that the president of the republic himself, in offering Gen Gassino the job, pointed to his speech before the Legislative Assembly as a key guideline for his government's military policy, with details directly related to the events of the Infantry School and Villa Martelli.

In this connection, those who are closely following the development of the serious military problem maintain that both this speech and the one aimed at rectifying previous statements made by Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena are precedents that will weigh very heavily on Gassino's future performance. Moreover, other viewpoints shared by the president and his principal advisory group are well known and are considered a real stumbling block that will hinder solutions. With regard to the latter point, both Alfonsin and the Coordinating Committee favor adhering inflexibly to the military policy that has been pursued to date, and their preferences lean toward running the risk of a confrontation rather than overcoming the crisis on the basis of tactical—but also, primarily ideological—concessions.

Clearly the Army chief of staff has little room to maneuver, especially when the nature of the situation—as we pointed out in our last commentary—is such that at this juncture, the military question has moved directly and profoundly into the purely political sphere. This is an even more serious development, because the country is entering the thorniest phase of a difficult election campaign characterized by the discrediting of the government and the most significant economic and social upheaval in the history of modern Argentina.

This latter factor in particular should be given special consideration in trying to assess the magnitude of these events. The Coordinating Committee, as well as the rest of the most outspoken sectors of the party that surround and motivate the Casa Rosada, does not accept—and will not accept without doing everything to avoid it—the dramatic and overwhelming loss of power that the results of the upcoming elections promise to bring.

Three Currents of Thought in Army

But let's leave aside this important aspect of the situation and save it for an analysis within its own context later on. It offers so many alternatives that they will have to be taken apart one by one, even as the ever-changing situation alters the possible variables.

Thus, we will say that today three main currents of thought can be discerned within the Army. In one way or another these viewpoints overlap and mesh, except for the one that can be seen clearly in the thinking and behavior of Cavalry General Isidro Caceres. From his command in the Army 2nd Corps headquartered in Rosario, he has been playing the role of promoting the apoliticalness and professionalism of the Army, within a framework that can be described as total identification with the spirit and letter of the National Constitution.

This is one of the viewpoints that are beginning to emerge with increasing clarity. Another current of thought, which is important both de facto and de jure, is the one that stems from the leadership of the Army, that is, the one that the chief of staff himself is trying to implement and advance, even though it still lacks a precise content. At least this is the way it is interpreted by all those who are intimately familiar with these matters. This does not mean that Gassino's viewpoint lies outside the guiding principles of the Constitution.

Third Current

The third current of thought is represented by the principal figures who at the time identified fully with the efforts of General Rios Erenu, first, and then General Caridi. These men have been and continue to be challenged from different angles.

This group suffered several casualties as a result of the latest events, and one of the most representative officers who went into retirement (voluntarily, in this case, but dictated by circumstances) is General Francisco Machinandiarena. This man was directly involved in the consequences of Operation Dignity, as he lost control—let's say command—of the 6th Infantry Brigade when it tried to repulse the forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico. It may be recalled that his subordinates refused to obey his orders, and yet Caridi appointed him to be the military judge in this case. Machinandiarena, along with the group from the General Staff at the time and also—let's be frank—the political authorities, decided to drop the charges against all those senior and junior officers who lost the command of their units or were disobeyed during Holy Week 1987. On the contrary, they decided to emphasize a more than controversial and questionable legal action against those who acted or did not deny their identification, sympathy, or acceptance of the new Army that was beginning to emerge at that moment, that is, when the first effort was made at the Infantry School to reverse the tragic decadence into which we Argentines have sunk.

As we were saying, Machinandiarena decided to retire, and his withdrawal did a great deal to smooth the way for Gassino, or at least for his initial steps. But this "third line," which is deeply rooted in the leadership of the Army over the last few years, has many followers on active duty, among them General Cordoba of the Cavalry, today commander of the 5th Corps in Bahia Blanca.

Another important man who subscribes to this "third line," which should be attributed the importance it deserves, given its power and influence, is General Alfredo Manuel Arrillaga. Gen Arrillaga was recently named inspector general of the Army, and was and is one of Caridi's principal advisers. He advocated, perhaps more forcefully than anyone else, a policy of total punishment across the board for everyone involved in Operations Dignity and Virgen del Valle. Moreover, at the critical point in these situations, he wanted to carry out plans of absolute inflexibility. This idea was also supported by Colonel Martin Antonio Balza, who has today replaced Gen Gassino as director of the Military Institutes, that is, chief of Campo de Mayo.

Colonel Balza

As with Cordoba and Arrillaga, it is necessary to take a moment to look at the record of this officer, who so closely adheres to the "third line." When Colonel Seneildin began his uprising (an event which was decisive in the historic circumstances that will characterize the future of the Army and, in all honesty, the country's political life), Col Balza, as chief of the 6th Mountain Infantry Brigade headquartered in Neuquen, met with the governor of the province, the mayor of the city, and the members of the Legislature to organize the popular convergence on the barracks and thus lend a more dynamic and valid element to the repression he wanted to carry out.

This curious initiative, which today is the favorite topic of conversation in the armed forces, is understandable, albeit unacceptable. As in Machinandiarena's case during Holy Week 1987, this time the troops didn't have the slightest inclination to put down the uprising. Indeed, after it was reported that Mountain Chasseur Company 6, commanded by Colonel Bartolo Tobbias, and the Mountain Military School, under the command of Cavalry Major Fernandez Funes, had announced that they would not participate in repression under any circumstances, in effect the entire brigade rebelled. This deserves additional explanations and interpretations, as Col Balza is the brother-in-law of the president of the republic, Dr Alfonsin, and like him, he was absolutely incapable of acting against his comrades.

Specific Proposals for the Future

Given this state of affairs, Gassino should consider calling, possibly by the end of this month, the first meeting of the high command. This will serve not only to inaugurate the activities for the year, but also, specifically, to analyze the precise terms of the situation and to take the first measures aimed at resolving it.

In this regard, we can predict that at the meeting a number of measures that are considered urgent will be discussed very thoroughly. These measures are, in no particular order, the following:
1) Taking administrative steps to dispose of all cases corresponding to those involved in the uprisings of Holy Week 1987 and December of last year.
2) Taking the same steps to reach final decisions in the diversion of these officers' cases to other courts. When the political facet of the problem is faced, this move should include the officers of the Air Force and the civilians who are being prosecuted for the so-called "Air Park Case" and related matters. The auditor general of the Army, Gen Borla, is already working on steps 1 and 2.
3) Repealing the amendments to the Military Justice Code. This issue has its rough spots, but it is considered indispensable so that progress can be made toward the objective.
4) Reviewing the current structure of command with a view to thoroughly restructuring the Army. This should include, in this or a later stage, the adoption of very important technical measures.
5) Appointing a special commission to write a detailed report by late March or early April on the profiles of those who will occupy or should leave the principal posts in the Army. The conclusions reached in this initiative should be incorporated into subsequent plans that are relatively peremptory.

In practice, this course of action will not be limited to the above points. It began with the retirement of Lt Gen Jose Dante Caridi, which, as we pointed out at the time, at that juncture represented a symbolic gesture with political overtones rather than a concrete measure. Such a concrete measure is waiting impatiently, and if its adoption were to be delayed or hindered in any way, the "tremors" that are being detected in various political entities, not excluding sectors of the ruling party, will intensify with consequences that could be very significant. Indeed, if the difficulties that the government is trying to put off should come to pass, we should not rule out political actions to take charge of the situation. This would pave the way for considerable interference by the Legislative Body in the debate on this question, with an eventual effort to solve the problem by excluding the most intransigent and ideological sectors of the ruling party, that is, the Casa Rosada and the Coordinating Committee.

Any impartial observer can see that if this happened, it would be possible for new political entities to emerge. Alfonsin knows this, and that is why he celebrated the New Year in Olivos, and why he postponed his vacation.

* Alfonsin, Auto Industry Leaders Discuss Crisis

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[Text] President Raul Alfonsin analyzed the serious plight of the auto industry in successive meetings with leaders of the Auto Parts Industry Coordinating Council (CCIA) and the Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (ADEFA). He promised them he would name a joint commission to seek a comprehensive solution to the sector's problems.

In the first meeting, Alfonsin met with representatives of the auto parts sector, headed by Juan Carlos Lupidio, at the government mansion. Also present were Isaias Zylberberg, Carlos Martinez, Ricardo Beleira, Horacio Larre Orono, Paulino Fernandez Soljan, Roberto Valle, Jorge Pitaluga, and Juan Fabregas.

The businessmen delivered to the president a proposal "that could partially alleviate the crisis in the sector," commented Lupidio, although he declined to give details.

The industry officials reportedly informed the president of the need to take "drastic measures" such as the comprehensive reform of the auto reconversion system, Law 21,932. They argued that the "superficial solutions" that have been attempted so far are "futile."

Later, Alfonsin spent 40 minutes listening to the complaints of the ADEFA leaders, headed by former Secretary of Industry Livio Kuhl.

This business sector told the chief executive of "the efforts that the sector is making in view of the situation created by the lack of demand."

Kuhl was accompanied by the general manager of Renault Argentina, Michel Arussard; the president of Sevel, Francisco Macri; the managing director of SAAB Scania, Andres Spare; and the head of Mercedes Benz Argentina, Gunter Janssen.

In addition to analyzing the overall situation in the industry, ADEFA stressed to Alfonsin the need to grant a 36-month period for the adaptation of the automobiles to be sold to Brazil under the integration pact so that they will meet the standards of both countries.

The Argentine auto plants will not be ready to operate until the beginning of the second half of this year, due to efforts to comply technically with Brazilian legislation.

This, in addition to the investment that naturally is required, implies that studies and tests of different kinds must be conducted. They will require a reasonable period before satisfactory results can be obtained and the desired coordination can be achieved.

After hearing the presentations, President Alfonsin promised to study the proposals and the possibility of creating a commission made up of the directors of the auto parts factories and the auto plants in order to seek a comprehensive solution to the problem.

Information From Businessmen

In mid-afternoon, the businessmen released a communique reporting that during the interview, they had told the chief of state that although production fell by 25.5 percent in the second half of 1988 with respect to the same period of the previous year, the level of employment fell by just 1.5 percent, which demonstrates the effort made by the auto plants in this regard.

The communique goes on to state: "Those present added that the inventories of finished units at the companies and in their commercial networks represent more than 3 months' worth of production, in accordance with the demand projected for the current year.

"They also explained the measures taken by each of the companies, but given that the prospects for the current year do not suggest any change in the situation that prevailed during the second half of last year, the companies will have to adjust production levels to the consequences of that situation.

"The president was also noted the efforts the companies have been making to boost exports of both finished units and auto parts, high-technology components, specific tool kits, and die sets. For that purpose, major investments are continuing in an attempt to expand activity.

"Finally, it was noted that internationally, automotive activity within the industrial sector producing semidurable goods is reacting more quickly and severely to economic adjustment measures, and will require, accordingly, a longer period to recover.

"The businessmen stated that they will continue striving to attenuate the possible consequences of the current situation in the sector."

* UBA's 1989 Political, Academic Prospects

33480104a Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Jan 89 p 6

[Commentary by Alejandro Nunez]

[Text] We are beginning a year that may be decisive for the future of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). In the next 90 days, many people associated with the political-academic milieu of UBA will think about and sketch out the various steps they will take in 1989 to achieve the different objectives they have set for themselves.

Several facts will predominate on the university scene in the next few months: the changes made in the Basic Common Curriculum (CBC), the annual dispute over the distribution of the UBA budget among the different schools that comprise it, the annual reelection of student body officers, and the renewal of the terms of all the directors and the members of the Higher Council, as well as those of the deans and the rector of UBA. There is no doubt that this situation will spark more than one controversy.

Basic Common Curriculum

This issue alone will cause serious confrontations. The certificate of legitimacy that the CBC received when it was reformed by the Higher Council will certainly be called into question by the sectors that challenged the CBC from the moment of its creation.

The reforms that have been implemented respond more to internal and administrative criteria than to a true academic, university perspective.

The issue is so far reaching that we must treat it separately, and at a time closer to the beginning of the academic year.

Other Issues and Prospects

Beginning the school year under the pressure of issues such as the distribution of the budget, student body elections, the selection of a new rector, and the renewal of the terms of all elected officials at UBA clearly means starting out with a very severe handicap. The smallest error could erupt into a serious conflict.

On the one hand we have the students: Radicals and Peronists will begin battling each other in the national elections in May, and the contest will spill over into student body elections in the university setting. The Radicals will try to preserve the delicate balance of power and the leadership of the student movement, which they have held since 1983. The Peronists, who in 1988 showed some signs of recovery, are placing all their bets on a triumph in the national elections being repeated in the upcoming general elections at UBA. Therefore, they will undoubtedly try to make sure that if no connection exists, one is created. Meanwhile, the liberals of the Union for University Openness (UPAU) must define the strategy they will adopt for this year. This is a year of singular importance for the UPAU; if it achieves good results in the faculty elections and holds its ground among graduate and undergraduate students, it will become the majority force at UBA (we are referring to the academic-ideological viewpoint), or the decisive force in determining the profile of the next UBA rector. It will also have to decide whether to hitch its wagon to the Democratic Center Union (UCEDE) in the election campaign and thus to depend on the results that party obtains in May, or to declare further independence from the liberal party in an effort to capture the votes of independents at the university.

The slight downturn in the 1988 elections sounded an alarm for liberal leaders, who analyzed it very carefully and are now planning their campaign for the current year.

In spite of everything, it will be the faculty that tips the balance to determine UBA's orientation in the next 4 years. Professors hold 50 percent of the decisionmaking power at UBA.

Relations between faculty and students have not been very profound, despite efforts to make them appear so. The student centers dominated by leftists, Peronists, or Radicals have unconditionally supported all attempts at organizing strikes in favor of the faculty union movement, leaving their own interests undefended. Thus, in the interior of the country, the professors stopped giving exams to the students, and the latter, because of the structural and rhetorical commitment their organizations have made to the faculty, have no representative institution to protect their own rights. The Radicals tried to change the wording of their own demands, pointing out on occasion that the defense of faculty union interests should not infringe upon the interests of the students. Nevertheless, the wording stopped at that, and the indirect support continued, since no demonstration, mobilization, or call for sanctions was organized to protest the professors' leaving the students without any possibility of taking exams.

Since 1983, no sector of the student popular movement has called for sanctions against any professor, no matter what the offense or who the victim was.

Ideologically, the faculty is very fragmented into sectors that are clearly similar. In other words, they appear to be divided into tiny groups that sometimes identify with each school, but ideologically, they are similar and share the majority of their ideas. The most serious problem they face is to organize and cooperate with esprit de corps, and to heighten awareness of the responsibilities incumbent upon them as the majority sector.

If we apply this notion to the relationship the professors at UBA have with their five representatives on the Higher Council, we can see its validity. These council members, elected by the faculty itself in an assembly, have not met with their constituents, even on the thorniest issues, since 1985. In their participation in the sessions of the Higher Council, in turn, they have contributed the fewest ideas, generated the fewest projects, and participated the least in discussing the projects proposed by the other members of the body, in the working committees of the UBA Higher Council. Perhaps things will change in 1989, and they will show that they have matured sufficiently to assume the responsibilities that the university community expects of them.

General Outlook

The above considerations lead us to anticipate a difficult year for the average student, the one who does not get involved in politics. It will also be difficult for those professors who try to impart knowledge without any kind of interference.

The overall atmosphere will be determined by the political yields that may be generated. An administrative or academic project that might be approved under normal circumstances will have to pass muster with whatever political analyst happens to be in charge. If the project might be advantageous to the opponent, it will certainly be criticized, obstructed, and, if the person has enough power, rejected immediately. Meanwhile, the general interest, the interest that representatives always claim they are striving to serve, will have to lie low and hope that 1989 will pass quickly, very quickly, leaving as little trace as possible.... Maybe this way on the first Wednesday in January 1990 we can say that, in spite of everything, there is a thread of academic continuity in the university community.

Bolivia

Government Not To Allow Permanent U.S. Base

PY2702030589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0154 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Santa Cruz (Bolivia), 26 Feb (EFE)—Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has stated here that the Bolivian Government will not allow a permanent U.S. military base to be installed on its territory.

The minister stated that such a base would violate Bolivian sovereignty.

He added, however, that under current agreements, foreign cooperation can be accepted in the struggle against the manufacturing and trafficking of drugs.

He said, however, that such cooperation will never involve "direct military intervention" of foreign forces on Bolivian territory.

Bolivian Aeronautics Minister General Jaime Zegada on Saturday confirmed that 300 U.S. military men will arrive in Bolivia in April, and that they will work to expand the installations of the "Capitan Rojas" civil airport in the city of Potosi.

Concern Expressed Over Projected U.S. Satellite

PY2602232189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2136 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] La Paz, 26 Feb (AFP)—The Bolivian Interior Ministry's social defense under secretary, Jorge Alderete, today stated that the proposed U.S. satellite that will spy on drug trafficking activities in coca and cocaine producing countries could endanger national sovereignty.

The U.S. defense department a few days ago announced the orbiting of satellites to observe the regions of Latin American countries where coca leaves and cocaine are produced, and where clandestine drug trafficking takes place.

Although he admitted that all methods for fighting this scourge of manking are important, Alderete warned that there must be bilateral regulations to manage them rationally, so that national sovereignty would not be endangered.

Antinarcotics Force Confiscates Cocaine

PY2502163889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Feb 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The special antinarcotics force has issued a communique reporting that last week the antinarcotics force seized 83,192 kg of cocaine and arrested a number of drug traffickers.

The communique reports that 69,500 kg of cocaine was seized in Cochabamba, 12,200 kg of cocaine was seized in Santa Cruz, and 1,490 kg of cocaine was seized in Chuquisaca.

The communique says the antinarcotics force also confiscated some drugs at the San Pedro prison in La Paz and arrested nine drug traffickers, who will have to face trial as soon as the investigation is concluded.

According to the communique, 15 cocaine factories and 32 maceration pits were destroyed. It adds that a large amount of chemicals was taken to the police office or destroyed in compliance with the law.

The antinarcotics force stated that antidrug operations will continue throughout the country, especially in those areas where drugs are traditionally produced or traded.

* MIR-NM, VR-9 Sign Political Agreement

* Document Text Published

33480103a La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 14

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left-New National Majority [MIR-NM] and the 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard [VR-9] established a political understanding and partisan convergence yesterday, with a view toward constructing the National Plan and democratically defeating the "oligarchical restoration plan" in next May's elections.

The national leaders of MIR-NM and VR-9, Jaime Paz Zamora and Carlos Serrate Reich, together with the MIR-NM general secretary, Oscar Eid Franco, and VR-9 leader Gonzalo Quiroga Zubieta, representing Vanguard's executive secretary, Humberto Cayoja Riart, signed the document, the text of which reads:

"MIR-New National Majority and 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard, after responsible discussions, inform the Bolivian people that they have reached a political understanding based on the following principles:

"1. MIR-New National Majority and 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard base their accords on the content of the National Plan headed by comrade Jaime Paz Zamora, and on the necessity for consolidating the construction of the indispensable New National Majority required by this plan.

"2. The understanding and convergence achieved by MIR-New National Majority and 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard surpass both the traditional frontist model of alliances and that of circumstantial "pacts" based on sinecures, offering to Bolivia and to Bolivians a new model of agreement and unification backed by a real desire to overcome the dispersion of citizens that has typified our country's political, economic, and social action, and to create an instrument for national unity to cope with the serious challenges facing the Bolivian people.

"3. 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard shares and adheres to these patriotic principles, comprising a militant part of the organizations and persons backing and supporting the candidacy of comrade Jaime Paz Zamora and his future government.

"4. MIR-New National Majority and 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard have made their program proposals compatible, conducive to the attainment of structural changes in areas relating to the state and the economy, and those that may socially benefit the national majority.

"5. In view of the fact that the elections in May of this year represent a confrontation of historically different options, MIR-New National Majority and 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard issue an appeal to the men and women of Bolivia, to reinforce our peoples unity so as to construct the National Plan of all Bolivians, and to democratically confront and defeat the Oligarchical Restoration Plan.

"La Paz, 22 January 1989"

* VR-9 National Leader Comments

33480103a La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 14

[Text] Yesterday the national chief of VR-9 [9 April Revolutionary Vanguard], Carlos Serrate Reich, upon confirming a political agreement with MIR-NM [Movement of the Revolutionary Left-New National Majority], claimed that the 1989 elections are critical to the history of Bolivia, because it will be decided at the polls whether the oligarchy is entrenched in power or whether the people will forge a new process.

In a speech delivered in the Red Room of the Chamber of Deputies—the site of the ceremony during which the agreement was signed between MIR-NM, headed by Jaime Paz Zamora, and this political force—the top-ranking leader of VR-9 underscored the significance of the event, remarking that Bolivia needs unity.

He maintained that the political understanding reached with MIR was not a result of mere coincidence, expressing the view that a historic time was being witnessed in the country, from the standpoint of strategic planning to construct a better future for Bolivia.

Serrate Reich said that the history of Bolivia has shown a serious tendency toward division and splits among political parties; with the MIR-VR-9 agreement, however, a serious, responsible attempt to seek unity is being evinced.

In his analysis, he admitted the instability of Bolivia's state-political institutions during the course of its history, claiming that 1952 brought an abortive revolution, bolstered by the military dictatorships "which, instead of reinforcing it, took advantage of it."

He stressed that in 1982 the people, expressing their will at the polls, defended the democratic process, bringing to power a government elected in the electoral contests, but the old oligarchy began reacting, owing to its economic power and the influence of the military dictatorships, which foiled democracy.

Serrate noted that they became ensconced in power during 1985, reversing the country's history, and pointed out that, for this reason, the unity between MIR-NM and VR-9, under the leadership of Jaime Paz Zamora, has a preeminently anti-oligarchical essence, as he termed it.

Predicting the electoral victory of Paz Zamora as president of the republic to be certain, Serrate emphasized: "As politicians, we have an obligation to rise above personal interests and to unite the fatherland, so as to leave our frustration at the polls on 7 May. This means agreement between MIR and VR-9."

* Paz Zamora Speaks

33480103a La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Jan 89 p 14

[Text] The time has come to join together and multiply, and that is the significance of this act of unity between MIR-NM [Movement of the Revolutionary Left-New National Majority] and VR-9 [9 April Revolutionary Vanguard], declared presidential candidate Jaime Paz Zamora yesterday, upon confirming the agreement between the two political forces, "to confront the oligarchical restoration."

The MIR chief and presidential candidate expressed his views at the conclusion of the speech delivered by the national head of 9 April Revolutionary Vanguard, Carlos Serrate Reich, during the signing of the document of political understanding reached by both leaders.

He claimed to be very gratified that both parties were assuming leading roles through the MIR-NM and VR-9 agreement, while proclaiming Vanguard's national chief, Carlos Serrate Reich, as that front's first senator representing the department of La Paz.

Paz Zamora told the reporters and individuals present that the agreement was one facing the people, with a view to history, and under the eyes of God. He added: "We are neither conspiring nor seeking to establish a destructive opposition but, on the contrary, one that will strengthen the country."

He noted that, when the Bolivian people recognize this, they initiate a process of gathering forces which, when joined together, become the revolution, as occurred in 1952 and as is happening today.

The MIR presidential candidate, underscoring the MIR-Torrism agreements, the MIR-VR-9 agreement, and future ones with other groups, declared: "Our people are joined together in New Majority, and we must understand this structuring of political parties and forces with MIR."

Paz Zamora described New Majority as a collection of parties and both regional and departmental civic organizations aiming toward the construction of the National Plan.

He commented: "We are creating unity to construct Bolivia, and we shall oppose those who do not want a country; in other words, those who want oligarchical restoration. That is why I feel more Bolivian than ever."

After these remarks, the national chief of MIR-NM vigorously shook hands with the top-ranking leader of VR-9, Carlos Serrate Reich, while reiterating that, for the first time, the Vanguard chief will be among those senators representing the department of La Paz.

Brazil

Sarney Returns, Comments on Debt Burden

PY2702182089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Early this morning, President Sarney returned from Japan where he attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

When the Varig DC-10 plane landed at the Brasilia Air Force Base, President Sarney was in the cockpit with the pilot. The president and his wife were welcomed by the acting president, Deputy Paes de Andrada.

While still at the base, President Sarney commented on the Brazilian foreign debt:

[Begin Sarney recording] Brazil can no longer put up with the constraints being placed on its economy. We can no longer agree to continue to export our capital and, additionally, having to finance the development banks that were created to help developing countries.

Paradoxically, we are now giving them more money than they are giving us. To give you an example of that; if the World Bank does not approve the Brazilian projects this year, we will have to pay them $1.7 billion and will receive only $200 million. We can no longer agree to that. [end recording]

Comments on Japanese Loan

PY2802004789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney has returned to Brasilia. He arrived this morning at the Brasilia air base after 5 days in Tokyo, where he attended Emperor Hirohito's funeral. Before going to the Alvorada Palace, President Sarney talked to the press. He said the $1.5-billion loan Brazil will obtain from the Nakazone Fund will be sufficient to guarantee the good performance of the Summer Plan.

[Begin Sarney recording] This means that the Summer Plan will receive the international support we wanted in order to maintain the flow of investments so the country will no longer run the risk of confronting a new recessive period, and will thus begin a new stage of development. This will be possible once the economic situation is regularized, and once the state's financial situation is also regularized.

Now that democracy has been established, we are going to start working to establish Brazil within the international community. [end recording]

The Japanese loan to Brazil will be released in March when an official Japanese delegation visits Brazil.

Rejects Linking Aid to Environment

OW2602095889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1441 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Brazilian President Jose Sarney, facing criticism from environmentalists, has rejected the linking of financial aid to environmental issues as an infringement of national sovereignty in talks to reporters during his stay here for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, environmentalist groups said Saturday.

Environmetal groups say the ecological soundness of development projects should be considered in dispensing aid.

Conservationists here are concerned Brazil's rejection will signal an increasing dependence on Japanese aid which lacks stringent environment controls.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita agreed in talks wih Sarney Thursday to extend more 1 billion dollars in new credits to Brazil.

Lobbying by environmental groups resulted in the cessation of World Bank funding in 1986 for a road through the northeastern section of the Amazon which contributed to acres of deforestation. Funding for the completion is being sought from Japan.

The Japanese Government is supplying a substantial part of the funding for new hydroelectric dams envisioned for the Amazon basin.

Amazon basin Indians have rallied against the dams which will flood, 7,700 square kilometers of rain forests including land where the Indians now live.

Meets Bush in Tokyo

PY2502135389 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Report from Tokyo by Irineu Tamanini]

[Text] It is 1929 here in Tokyo, Saturday, 25 February. President Jose Sarney today held a 35-minute meeting with his U.S. counterpart, George Bush, at the U.S. Embassy. In the meeting they discussed the foreign debt, the Latin American situation, and environmental preservation.

During the talks, which were witnessed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, President Bush said the United States has not—and will not—adopt any attitude against Brazil that may interfere with Brazilian domestic matters.

[Begin Sarney recording] The U.S. position regarding environmental matters is similar to ours. We believe that concern over environmental conditions must be shared by all because they deal with man's survival on the Earth. These conditions, however, are not only related to policies to be adopted by the poorest countries, or to the preservation of tropical forests. The issue refers to much more than that. It refers to the heating of our atmosphere, which is a consequence of the developed countries' actions. It also refers to such damage to the ecology as the harming of the ozone layer covering our planet. It refers most of all to the possibility of man destroying the earth by using the nuclear arsenals kept by the developed countries. [end recording]

After meeting with Bush, President Sarney left for Brazil. The Varig DC-10 took off at 1640. After a stopover in Los Angeles, President Sarney will arrive at the Brasilia Air Force base on 27 February.

Communications Minister, Foreign Minister Ill

PY2702182889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes health condition is described as stable following a heart attack. He is hospitalized at the Heart Institute in Sao Paulo.

The medical bulletin released by the institute at 1200 states that Minister Magalhaes is recovering well, and that there have been no complications. He is conscious and is being fed normally. The date for his heart surgery has not yet been set. [passage omitted]

The next bulletin will be released at 1100 tomorrow.

During his trip to Japan, Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre had health problems. According to an aide's report, Minister Sodre will leave for Sao Paulo today to rest at his home for a week.

Minister Sodre had a slight case of pneumonia, and is doing well.

Colombia

Liberal Party Councilmen, FARC Leader Killed

PA2702161589 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Feb 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Two more Liberal Party [PL] councilmen have been killed in urban areas in Antioquia and Huila Departments while the Army is fighting FARC guerrillas in the region.

Public order deteriorated after the weekend when subversive groups blew up another electricity tower in Mineros de Antioquia, in the Lower Cauca region of Antioquia. Meanwhile, fighting was taking place along four different fronts in Huila. Yesterday, 10th Brigade troops killed Commander Bernardo, chief of the 37th FARC front, in fighting in Las Conchas, in the rural area of Nechi.

National Liberation Army [ELN] and FARC guerrillas are active in this area. They constantly sabotage the power lines that provide electricity to Mineros de Antioquia Company. Since Saturday, the 10th Brigade has been conducting an operation with airborne troops against a FARC column.

Yesterday's fighting took place in open areas. It was during this fighting that Bernardo was killed. His full name is unknown. All that is known about him is his alias and the fact that he held a high rank within the FARC, military sources said.

Bernardo and an eight-man column extorted money from miners in this area, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's gold production. A military spokesman said the other guerrillas managed to escape.

According to a brief police bulletin, "hired thugs ambushed and killed Liberal Party [PL] Councilman Orlando Anibal Monroy, 34, in an alley in Caucasia Municipality. His companion, a professor identified as Jaime Gallego Flores, 40, was wounded in the attack."

The bulletin reports that events surrounding this incident began last night when the two men decided to go home after having a few drinks. The paid assassins were waiting for them in an alley. The two men jumped on a motorcycle belonging to one of them and were barely a block away when seven shots rang out. Two explosions were heard and the two men were left lying on First Street in Caucasia municipality. The two were teachers at the local Inem [expansion unknown]. One of them was the PL councilman from Antioquia.

The latest victim of the violence in Lower Cauca had a degree in philosophy. He was used to the threats and had escaped uninjured from several attacks in the past.

Rumors abounded yesterday in this hot and rich gold-producing area. Some suspect the ELN killed him for having retired from the organization after several years of activity with it.

Monroy had become a member of the PL board headed by Senator Bernardo Guerra Serna in Antioquia. This board, which holds the PL majorities in the department, had complained of a surge in violence against members lately.

Twenty PL leaders in Antioquia have been murdered since early 1988.

Attacks in Huila

Army troops and FARC guerrillas have been engaged in heavy fighting in several places in this department with a toll of one policeman and one soldier wounded and several guerrillas killed.

The incidents have occurred in the municipalies of Acevedo, in the south, and Santa Maria, in northern Huila Department.

In Santa Maria, alleged FARC guerrillas attacked a police patrol. A police officer identified as Samuel Ovidio Gutierrez, commander of the police post in the town, was wounded. The attack took place near the health center.

A civilian—Daniel Manjarrez—was wounded. The guerrillas retreated toward the mountains and an antiguerrilla group of the National Police is pursuing them.

A soldier of the Magdalena Battalion, headquartered in Pitalito, was wounded in Acevedo but his identity has not been disclosed. Antiguerrilla operations are also under way in San Adolfo.

In a place known as Mundo Viejo in Baraya Municipality, alternate PL councilman Elias Bonilla was killed while in the company of his brother Vitelio Bonilla. Both were merchants and were presumably killed by members of some guerrilla group.

FARC Front Attacks Police Post in Tolima

PA2702130189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by Humberto Brines]

[Text] Five subversive individuals traveling in a van have attacked a police patrol near Rovira, El Tolima Department. The police returned fire, killing two guerrillas and capturing three. The guerrillas apparently belong to the 21st Front of the self-styled FARC.

The shootout between the alleged guerrillas and a police patrol resulted in two dead rebels and two wounded policemen. The attack occurred in Rovira Municipality at approximately 0030 when 10 [as heard] rebels traveling in a van with license plate number WT-32-14 clashed with a police patrol. The shoot-out lasted 30 minutes. The captured guerrillas—including two dead and two wounded—were turned over to the municipal judge of the second court.

War materiel, including seven grenades, two submachineguns, one revolver, and six armed forces uniforms, was seized. This area is constantly under attack from the 21st Front of the FARC and other subversive groups. The National Police is conducting operations to locate the other individuals who were in the van.

Army Dismantles ELN Ring, Defuses Bombs

PA2702215189 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Army troops have dismantled a ring of Army of National Liberation [ELN] guerrillas who were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in Arauca. The soldiers also killed three rebels and captured five more in Santander Department.

According to reports, members of the 2d Division and the Army's 7th Brigade defused bombs placed on the pipeline of the municipal water company in Arauca Intendency's capital city. The soldiers also identified and captured the members of the terrorist cell.

18 Killed in 'Massacre' in Cundinamarca

PA2802012989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Renowned emerald dealer Gilberto Molina and 17 other persons were murdered early this morning. The group was at a pool party at La Paz farm, near Sasaima, Cundinamarca. After 4 hours of gaiety, a group of approximately 50 persons, armed with machineguns and dressed in Armed Forces uniforms, interrupted the party at the farm and began the massacre. The following is the report by Javier Dario Restrepo:

[Begin recording] The quiet country atmosphere of the areas near Sasaima smelled of gunpowder and blood. The relatives of the 18 victims massacred at La Paz farm shed tears at the farm. The massacre apparently took place at 0120 today when the shots silenced the music. [passage omitted]

Officials found R-15 cartridges in the farm's fields. Apparently, the bodyguards were not able to use their weapons, and the murderers took the weapons with them. The fourth attempt to murder Gilberto Molina ended in this manner. [end recording]

Gilberto Molina was a very controversial person while he was alive. Although his main business was emerald dealing, there are those who say he was Gilberto Rodriguez Gacha's fellow godparent. Rodriguez Gacha was also called the Mexican. As happens with all men, some

persons condemn Molina, and others mourn him. The people of Quipama municipality especially mourn him, and a day of mourning for his death is being held today. [passage omitted]

Gilberto Molina, 53, was one of Colombia's wealthiest men. He is said to have had links with drug trafficking. A farm in Paite, Cundinamarca, which supposedly belonged to him, was confiscated because poppy plants were cultivated there. He was exonerated of these charges at a trial. Molina was also said to promote paramilitary groups in the Magdalena area. It is known he had enemies, but it is not known and perhaps will never be known, who killed him. [passage omitted]

Peru

Shining Path Stages 'Armed Strike;' 17 Die

PY2702152189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0329 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 26 Feb (EFE)—According to political sources here today, at least 17 people were killed during the "armed strike" staged by the Maoist Shining Path organization over the past 7 days.

According to journalistic sources the 7-day strike, under which the threat of death was applied to those who did not heed the call, ended today. It has been respected by nearly everyone in the city, and in other Ayacucho provinces such as Huanta, San Miguel, and La Mar.

During the week the Shining Path carried out violent raids, and killed people who did not respect the "armed strike."

A Chiare District municipal worker was killed on 22 February because he went to work. An old woman street peddler was riddled with bullets in La Libertad neighborhood, Ayacucho City, on 23 February. These are just two of the people killed during the week.

On the 2d day of the strike a bomb destroyed an Army vehicle on Quinua Highway killing one soldier and seriously wounding five others.

The same day Prime Minister Armando Villanueva, accompanied by Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez Albujar and Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez, visited Ayacucho to implement a series of measures against the "armed strike" and to offer police and military protection to the population. Their assurances, however, did not yield positive results.

A school teacher, four members of an Ayacucho family, and a Chichua peasant, were later killed.

Eight civil defense workers from Gloriapata, La Mar Province, were killed by a column of some 50 terrorists on 24 February.

The police have also reported that the brothers Fermin and Pablo Huanan, both students at San Cristobal University in Huamanga, were kidnapped—allegedly by four hooded men—in the early hours of this morning.

The "armed strike," against what the Shining Path has described "a government hunger policy," has included the closing down of shops, factories, and public offices, and a ban on the Ayacucho transport system over the 7-day period.

Traffic was light during the week despite the fact that military personnel opened the gas stations and markets. Shops did not open.

On 25 February a bomb placed by terrorists near a shopping area exploded, wounding four people—three street peddlers and a market security guard—when shopowners tried to reopen their shops.

Today, the last day of the strike, soldiers from Los Cabitos de Ayacucho brought food to the town main square.

The police presented a woman, who was arrested on 25 February and who is presumed to be a Shining Path member, who was captured while carrying 70 dynamite sticks and several grenades.

Ayacucho has been without electricity since 17 February when 5 high-voltage power towers on the Huanta-Ayacucho powerline were destroyed by the Shining Path.

Antarctic Scientific Base Dedicated Today

PY2702134289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] At exactly 1235, Defense Minister General Enrique Lopes Albujar hoisted the Peruvian flag at the Peruvian Antarctic Base on King George Island, in Admiralty Bay.

The dedication ceremony of the Peruvian base was presided over by the defense minister. Also in attendance were Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria, Senator Carlos Enrique Melgar and other members of the delegation. Peru has thus added part of the Antarctic Continent to its territory, in accordance with the rights granted by the Antarctic Treaty. [passage omitted]

Delegation's Ship Hits Rock

PY2702202689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The Peruvian Ship "Humboldt," which was returning from the Antarctic base, last night hit a rock near Mariana Bay. Fortunately, there were no casualties. All crew members are expected to arrive in Lima tonight.

The Peruvian Navy ship "Humboldt," which last night was returning with the whole Peruvian delegation after the dedication of the Machu Picchu Base in the Antarctic, hit a rock near Mariana Bay, after disembarking three Korean scientists who had attended the dedication ceremony.

Petroleum began to flow out through a hole in the right side of the ship, but fortunately this hole did not cause extensive structural damage. The crew was immediately evacuated to Chile's Teniente March Base, located 12 km from the place of accident.

Our station correspondent Bruno de la Saba has reported that the group of reporters attending the ceremony had returned to Punta Arenas 2 hours before the accident. Inclement weather currently prevents the ship from being repaired, but the ship is in no danger of sinking.

Our gratitude must be extended to all the foreign delegations that came to the ship's aid only minutes after the accident. Provided there are no further problems, all members of the Peruvian delegation will return to Lima tonight aboard a Peruvian Air Force Buffalo airplane.

As is known to all Peruvians, this delegation had traveled to the Antarctic to participate in the dedication of our first Antarctic base.

Venezuela

Disturbances in Main Cities; Government Responds

PA2802021989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0123 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 27 Feb (AFP)—The government announced tonight over a radio and television network that it will prevent vandalism such as the looting and disturbances that shook Venezuela today.

While Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre was speaking at 2030 (0030 GMT), barricades and vehicles were still burning in the streets of Caracas, stores were being looted, and thousands of workers were walking home because there was no public transportation.

The disturbances broke out in the main cities of the country—but were stronger in Caracas and nearby cities—to protest increased public transportation rates, the most noticeable of all the measures implemented this week within the framework of an agreement with the IMF.

"The government has not tried to hide the seriousness of the crisis, but the country had no other choice. These are not whimsical measures but are demanded by the situation," Izaguirre said.

The minister again called for a concerted effort and reiterated "the government's willingness to hold talks and stressed the government's strong determination that such actions that have shocked Venezuelans will not occur again."

Interior Minister Condemns Violence

PA2802034889 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Speech by Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre at the Interior Ministry in Caracas—live or recorded]

[Text] Venezuelans: Disturbances and disruptions of public order have taken place throughout the day in Caracas and various towns in the interior of the country. Through me, the national government wishes to reiterate that it has never tried to hide the seriousness of a crisis that is unprecedented in the democratic history of Venezuela. We have been very clear in pointing out that this conflicting situation gives the country no choice other than making an important change.

We understand many of the decisions that have been adopted have quickly produced painful results. Therefore, the national government has assumed the responsibility of this new course within the framework of a broad concerted effort of all political, economic, and social interests that compose our democratic state. The national government has also decided to launch a vast social assistance program by increasing salaries and wages effective 1 March and by direct subsidies that will preserve essential goods for Venezuelan families, such as housing.

The national government admits that it is not and cannot be easy to transform a country that lived under the illusion that nothing was happening here into an austere country with new consumer habits, devoted to work and social solidarity. However, the national government has also been very clear in pointing out these are not whimsical changes, but are demanded by the situation.

The people of Venezuela placed their trust in us in the 4 December elections, because they understood the need for a deep change, and because the people of Venezuela understood Carlos Andres Perez is the answer for guiding the country through these turbulent waters of crisis. We have never deceived the Venezuelans about the country's situation; we always stated that the responsibility we were assuming of building a country on solid economic bases entailed a share of sacrifice and efforts, from which no one was excluded.

That is a commitment we must all share. What is at stake is not today or tomorrow. Venezuela's fate, its prosperity, and its development are at stake. Precisely for that reason, the national government has proposed to the country an economic and social plan to set Venezuela on a course of growth without inflation. We understand that not everyone can agree with the government's position; disagreement and dissent are precisely the essence of our democratic system.

However, controversy, regardless of how strong it may be within the framework of democratic legality, is one thing—but it is a very different thing to use that legality

to ignore all barriers of social coexistence and promote the explosion of anarchical outbreaks that endanger Venezuelan lives and property.

We reaffirm the desire of the national government to dialogue, but we also reaffirm our most resolute determination not to permit the continuation of the deplorable events that troubled Venezuelans today. The attacks and lootings, the burning of cars and buses, and holdups and violence are not part of the many expressions of a democratic society, and the national government is not willing to tolerate them.

We call on all Venezuelans to think. This is a duty we must all share. The country demands we be firm in the management of the state. I wish to offer the country all of the government's guarantees for the normal development of social life. In the name of the national government, I call on all sectors to unite their efforts to set Venezuela on the course of a great destiny.

As the president of the Republic has said and repeated: With the cooperation of all Venezuelans, we will overcome this and all difficulties.

Have a very good night.

Guyana

Opposition Predicts Ruling Party's 'Collapse'

FL2302142989 Bridgetown CANA in English
0807 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 22, CANA—Leader of the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), Paul Tennassee, says the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is in its last days but the political opposition in Guyana is not organised enough to take advantage of the situation.

Tennassee, a leading government critic, also forecast political unrest here. "It is very clear that the PNC is in their last days. They cannot rule this country any more. I have been visiting a lot of PNC members and they are convinced that the PNC cannot do the job," Tennassee told a press conference Monday.

He said recent statements made by Deputy Prime Minister of Public Utilities, Robert Corbin that the Guyana Government has been in touch with the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation because of concerns about the reduced electricity because of faulty equipment here will go down in Guyana's political history as one of the most dramatic statements by the PNC of their incompetence. "It is one of the first points in the collapse of the PNC," Tennassee said.

He contended that the question which now arises is whether the opposition parties grouped under the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) can organise itself to effect the change.

Arrests for Rice Hoarding, Smuggling Reported

FL2302182189 Bridgetown CANA in English
0803 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 22, CANA—Police in Guyana have seized 75 bags of rice and charged two persons with contravening the countrys rice act.

The charges have come in the midst of official allegations that a high incidence of hoarding and smuggling of rice is a main contributory factor to current consumers' difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies of the basic commodity in this rice exporting country.

According to police reports, last Thursday a dray cart was seen in the Greater Georgetown area loaded with 25 bags of rice. Subsequent checks revealed that the driver did not have the necessary documents to transport the rice.

The police claimed the driver, Nichaolas Pompey, reported that he had taken the rice from a house in Pike Street, Kitty, Greater Georgetown.

On further investigations, 50 bags of rice were found stored at the Pike Street house, the police said.

As a result of the investigations, Pompey was charged with the illegal carriage of rice.

Patricia Adams was charged with the illegal storage of rice on her premises without notifying the relevant authorities and with buying rice from a manufacturer without authority.

Sugar Workers Support Guatemalan Union

FL2302205289 Bridgetown CANA in English
2047 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23, CANA—The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) has called for the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation [Guysuco] to cease importation of sugar from Guatemala in light of alleged violations of trade union rights taking place in a major sugar union there.

In a statement, GAWU expressed its solidarity with members of the Sindicato del Ingenio Mirandilla, one of Guatemala's sugar unions, saying fifty workers were dismissed from the Mirandilla Sugar Factory because of their trade union activities. "The dismissal of the workers and the breaking off of negotiations with the union constitute a violation of basic industrial relations principles. This is of great concern to the GAWU and no doubt, to progressive trade unions everywhere," GAWU said.

It called for the resumption of negotiations between the union and the company for the reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

GAWU suggested that Guysuco should stop importing Guatemalan sugar until the situation was satisfactorily improved.

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